WEDNESDAY
May 7, 2025

BENGALURU
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THE HINDU

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The Hindu Huddle, 2025: India in Dialogue

Schedule, May 9

THE HINDU GROUP

10:00 am
Opening Ceremony

10:15 am - 11:00 am
State and Nation:
Seeking Fairness within Federalism

Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Karnataka

In conversation with
Bageshree S.
Resident Editor, The Hindu

11:05 am - 11:50 am
Fortified State:
Balancing National Security with
Political Expediency

M.K. Narayanan
Former National Security Adviser, India

T.S. Tirumurti
Former Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, New York

Moderated by
N. Ravi
Director, Kasturi & Sons

11:55 am - 12:40 pm
Well-Rounded World View:
Finding a Place for Liberal Education
A Special Session Celebrating Frontline@40

Dr. Bhavani S.
Dean of School of Humanities and Performing Arts, Christ University

Dr. Jonathan Gil Harris
Professor, Ashoka University

Dr. Srinath Raghavan
Professor, Ashoka University

Sudheesh Venkatesh
Managing Editor, Azim Premji Foundation

Moderated by
Maya Thiagarajan
Educator and Founder, TREE

12:45 pm - 1:30 pm
The Female Gaze:
Redefining Cinema on the Global Stage

Nandita Das
Filmmaker and Actor

Shahana Goswami
Actor

Jeo Baby
Filmmaker

Moderated by
Shilajit Mitra
Film Correspondent, The Hindu

1:35 pm - 2:10 pm
Lunch

2:15 pm - 2:45 pm
Whither Social Justice?
Telangana's Bold Governance Experiment

Revanth Reddy
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Telangana

In conversation with
Ravikanth Reddy
Political Editor, Telangana, The Hindu

2:50 pm - 3:20 pm
Maharashtra Unbound:
Gateway to India's Trillion-Dollar Economy

Devendra Fadnavis
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Maharashtra

In conversation with
Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
Chief of Bureau, Maharashtra, The Hindu

3:25 pm - 4:10 pm
No Boundaries:
Growth of Women's Cricket in India

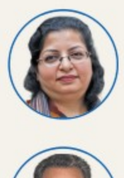
Mithali Raj
Former Captain, India

Shantha Rangaswamy
Former and First Captain, India

Shreyanka Patil
Cricketer, India

Moderated by
K.C. Vijaya Kumar
Sports Editor, The Hindu

4:15 pm - 5:00 pm
Climate Calling:
Is Technology the Panacea for
a Warming Planet?



Suruchi Bhadwal
Director, Climate Change and Air Quality, TERI

Dr. Arunabha Ghosh
Founder-CEO, Council on Energy, Environment and Water

Dr. Sambuddha Misra
Chemical Oceanographer and Professor, IISc

Moderated by
Jacob Koshy
Deputy Science Editor, The Hindu

5:05 pm - 5:35 pm
From Quantum Valley to Education Hubs:
Leveraging Coalition Politics to
Deliver Good Governance

N. Chandrababu Naidu
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh

In conversation with
N. Ram
Director, The Hindu Group

5:40 pm - 6:10 pm
Stand-up Act

Anu Menon

SAMI-SABINSA GROUP

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TRANSPARENCY DRIVE

SC publishes asset details of 21 judges

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'RELATIVELY UNUSUAL'

Monsoon to advance early into Nicobar islands

NEWS » PAGE 14

SECOND TIME LUCKY

Merz clears hurdles to be German Chancellor

WORLD » PAGE 16

DIFFERENT YARDSTICKS

Fragmentation in global fight against terror

Gone are the days of united efforts

EDITORIAL » PAGE 10

THE SUPER KINGS TEST

Knight Riders look to sustain momentum

SPORT » PAGE 17

NEARBY

GO specifies what's allowed in Cubbon Park

BENGALURU
After multiple deliberations about what is allowed and what is not inside Cubbon Park, the government passed an order with a specific list of do's and don'ts to be followed inside the park. » PAGE 2

Three minor Pak. nationals move High Court

BENGALURU
The High Court of Karnataka on Tuesday ordered issue of notice to the Centre and the State governments on a petition filed by three minor Pakistani nationals seeking directions to authorities to allow them to stay in Mysuru till May 15. » PAGE 6

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 3

States to conduct drills today to test civil defence preparedness

244 districts in Categories 1, 2, and 3 identified for the exercise in the wake of 'hostile situation'; States asked to add areas with vital installation to the 'vulnerable list' based on their assessment; security gaps identified will be plugged, says official

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Taking caution: SDRF personnel train at Dal Lake in Srinagar ahead of Wednesday's drill. IMRAN NISSAR

Various States across the country undertook preparations for a nationwide civil defence preparedness drill scheduled to begin on Wednesday. The exercise has been mandated by the Union Home Ministry to assess emergency response capabilities, following the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam that claimed 26 civilian lives.

Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan on Tuesday reviewed the preparations by the States in the wake of a "hostile" situation. While the Directorate-General, Civil Defence, has identified 244 districts in Categories 1, 2, and 3 for the conduct of drills up to the village level based on an assessment done in 2005 and 2010, the States have been asked to add to the "vulnerable areas" list based on their assessment.

An area is designated a civil defence district if there are vital installations such as a refinery, nuclear plant or cantonment in its geographical limits. The States have been asked to submit a report to the Home Ministry after the drills are completed and the identified security gaps will be plugged accordingly, a senior official said.

"We are not micro-managing the drill. States have been given a format to conduct the drill based on the availability of resources and mapping of vulnerable areas. The District Magistrates may decide the venue and time," the official said.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Army continued to violate the ceasefire along the Line of Control for the 12th consecutive night.

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» PAGE 12

RELATED REPORTS ON
» PAGE 5

UNSC members question Pak. on Pahalgam attack

NEW YORK
The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) member nations posed tough questions to Pakistan in a discussion on the Pahalgam terror attack. The council refused to issue a statement following the meeting, effectively dismissing Pakistan's attempt to secure a favourable position from the top UN body. » PAGE 15

India, U.K. conclude landmark trade deal

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India and the United Kingdom have concluded a historic Free Trade Agreement (FTA) that will see 99% of Indian exports to the U.K. benefiting from zero duties, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced on Tuesday.

"In a historic milestone, India and the U.K. have successfully concluded an ambitious and mutually beneficial Free Trade Agreement, along with a Double Contribution Convention," Mr. Modi posted on X, following a telephone conversation with Mr. Starmer.

According to a release by the Commerce and Industry Ministry, the FTA ensures comprehensive market access in the U.K. for Indian goods, covering all of India's export interests. "India will gain from tariff elimination on about 99% of the tariff lines covering almost 100% of the trade value offering huge opportunities for increase in the bilateral trade," the release said. India has agreed to cut rates on 90% of tariff lines from the U.K., its government said, with 85% of these set to become zero tariff within a decade.

Breaking barriers
The deal is expected to double bilateral trade by 2030
99% Indian exports to benefit from zero duty in U.K. market
Britain to benefit from reduction in tariffs on whisky, gin and automotive imports
Reduced import duties for cosmetics, aerospace and medical devices, lamb, salmon, electrical machinery, chocolates and biscuits to benefit Indian consumers

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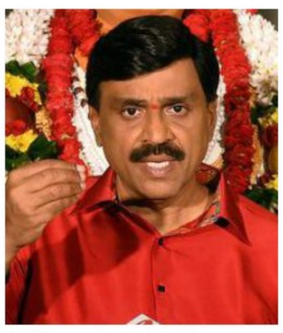
RELATED REPORTS
» PAGES 14 & 15

Janardhana Reddy, three others get jail in 16-year-old illegal mining case

Marri Ramu
HYDERABAD

A Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) special court here on Tuesday awarded seven-year imprisonment to Gali Janardhana Reddy, BJP MLA, and three others in a 16-year-old case of illegal mining in Anantapur district of undivided Andhra Pradesh. A fine of ₹10,000 was imposed on each of them.

A relative of the MLA, B.V. Srinivas Reddy, managing director, Obulapuram Mining Corporation (OMC); the then Director of the Mining Department, V.D. Rajagopal; and the MLA's personal assistant Ali Khan, are the others sentenced. A fine of ₹2 lakh was imposed on OMC for the alleged illegalities.



Gali Janardhana Reddy

The CBI had registered the FIR in 2009 and filed a chargesheet in 2011, accusing the OMC of indulging in illegal mining of iron ore estimated at ₹884.13 crore. The chargesheet said the OMC had illegally exported the ore it extracted.

The CBI had filed four chargesheets in the case from 2009 to 2014. The chargesheet also said OMC had indulged in benami transactions.

Sabitha Indra Reddy, Home Minister of Andhra Pradesh when the case was registered, and retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer B. Krupanandam were acquitted of the charges framed against them due to lack of evidence. IAS officer Y. Srilakshmi has already received relief in the same case as the Telangana High Court allowed her discharge petition in November 2022.

Ms. Indra Reddy later joined the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), served as a Minister in the erstwhile BRS government, and is currently the Maheshwaram MLA from that party.

OMC excavated iron ore in Obulapuram village in the Ballari reserve forest area along the Andhra Pradesh-Karnataka border area. The Congress government in 2009 lodged a complaint with the Centre alleging that the company was mining iron ore in violation of rules. It was alleged that OMC began illegally extracting minerals in areas beyond its permitted jurisdiction.

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» PAGE 12

A CRUSHING BLOW
» PAGE 6

India up three spots to 130 among 193 nations in HDI, but inequality persists

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

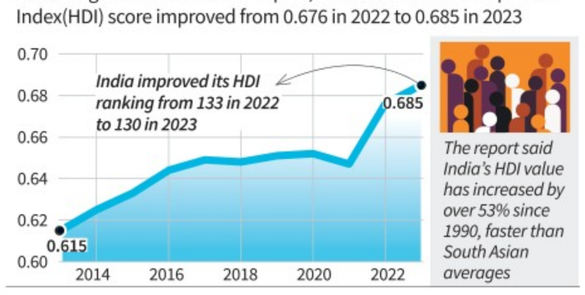
India moved up three spots in the Human Development Index, ranking 130 out of 193 countries in 2023, shows the Human Development Report, 2025, released on Tuesday by the United Nations Development Programme.

With the HDI value improving to 0.685 in 2023 from 0.676 in 2022, India remained in the medium human development category, moving closer to the high human development threshold of 0.700.

The Gross National Income per capita rose over four times to $9,046.76 in 2023 from $2,167.22 in 1990, while 135 million Indians escaped multidimensional poverty between 2015-16 and 2019-21.

However, challenges persist, with inequality reducing India's HDI by 30.7%, one of the highest losses in the region, the report said. "While health and education inequality have improved, income and gender disparities remain significant. Female labour force participation and political representation lag, though recent steps – such as the constitutional amendment reserving one-third of legislative seats for women – offer promise for transformative change," it added.

Life expectancy in India rose to 72 in 2023 from 58.6 in 1990, the highest since the inception of the index, indicating a strong recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Global slowdown

Underscoring a broader global slowdown in human development the report revealed that the current pace of progress is the slowest since 1990, and India is no exception.

The inequality between low and very high HDI countries had increased for the fourth consecutive year, reversing long-standing progress, the report said.

EMMANUAL YOGINI

Badoni — a Super Giant in Lucknow's middle-order

The 25-year-old from Delhi, who has been with the franchise since its inaugural edition in 2022, is enjoying his best IPL season with the bat even as the outfit is struggling for wins in its bid to enter the playoffs

Vivek Krishnan

Behind the trio of Nicholas Pooran, Mitchell Marsh and Aiden Markram in the list of Lucknow Super Giants' highest run-getters in this year's IPL is a diminutive Indian batter who belongs to Delhi. Someone who honed his skills at the prestigious Sonnet Club in the national capital, and has his family's roots in Uttarakhand.

Rishabh Pant, of course, fits this description. But in a season where the LSG skipper has been severely below-par with the bat, the man who has taken the mantle of providing heft to LSG's middle-order is Ayush Badoni.

With 326 runs in 10 innings at an average of 36.22 and a strike rate of 150.23, the 25-year-old from Delhi is enjoying his best IPL season till date. If he has somewhat slipped under the radar despite his creditable returns, it is perhaps because of the rut of losses that LSG has had to encounter of late. Having suffered defeats in each of its last three games, the franchise faces an uphill battle in its bid to sneak into the playoffs with three matches remaining.

LSG's previous game against Punjab Kings at the HPCA Stadium in Dharamsala, where the jagged peaks of the Dhauladhar range provide a beautiful backdrop, was a classic example of Badoni's brilliance being shrouded by the despair of defeat. By the time he came in to bat at No. 5, the visiting team was teetering at 27 for three in 4.2 overs in a steep chase of 237 with its three in-form overseas batters all back in the dugout.

The sense of doom and gloom escalated on the back of Pant and David Miller falling for 18 and 11, respectively, inside the first ten overs. At 73 for five, with the Super Giants needing another 164 runs from 61 balls at a required rate north of 16 runs per over, a victory for PBKS had become a foregone conclusion.

But Badoni wasn't willing to resign himself to the outcome. He stitched together a fighting stand of 81 runs off just 41 balls with Abdul Samad for the sixth wicket, and went on to make a career-best score of 74 off 40 balls. It was only in the final over that Badoni departed after miscuing a reverse hit off a low full toss by Yuzvendra Chahal to Arshdeep Singh at short third. By then, Badoni had more than done his bit in helping LSG reach 199 for seven and bridging the margin of defeat to 37 runs. If the battle for the playoffs boils down to net run rate, this may prove to be significant after all.

Packing a punch

With swagger and self-belief complementing his stroke-making ability, Badoni largely conforms to the stereotype of cricketers from Delhi. Despite the dire situation in Dharamsala, then, the right-hander allowed his fearless streak to shine through by unfurling a range of eye-catching shots.

The best of the lot was arguably the first of his five sixes on the night. Azmatullah Omarzai, the Afghan pacer, had done little wrong, landing the ball just short of a good length outside off-stump. In response, Badoni, with his feet rooted to the crease after a minor back-and-across trigger movement, simply stood on top of the bounce and flat-batted it over the long-off fence.

To a similar delivery from the same bowler two overs later, Badoni explored another part of the outfield. With the fine-leg fielder taking a more squarish position than usual, he sensed a relatively low-risk opportunity for a boundary in that area, and yielded the desired result by pulling out the paddle scoop. Against Vijaykumar Vyshak, too, he was able to exploit that region with another of those cheeky scoops.

He peppered the extra-cover boundary just as frequently, with a couple of sumptuous inside-out shots off Vyshak launched into the night sky for maximums. In the end, it only delayed the inevitable, but Badoni had reasons to be pleased with his own output.

"When Samad and I were batting, I was just thinking about a way to make the team win. Whenever LSG is in a tough situation, I like handling the pressure and enjoy playing in those moments," he said at the post-match press conference.

SANDEEP SAXENA

Inputs from coach Langer

Badoni has come a long way since his maiden IPL season in 2022. Not even a regular for Delhi in domestic cricket back then, it was primarily as a late-overs dasher that he initially made his mark for LSG.

With Gautam Gambhir, then LSG mentor and very much cognizant of Delhi cricket's haphazard ways, backing Badoni to exhibit his natural game at No. 6, he responded with a 41-ball 54 in his very first outing versus Gujarat Titans. While he also had a few cracks in the top-order across his first three seasons, he was predominantly tasked with optimising the slog overs at No. 6 and 7.

It meant that Badoni never faced more than 200 deliveries in those editions, and his average languished in the 20s. Yet, when the time came for LSG to announce its retention list ahead of the mega auction for 2025, it forked out ₹4 crore to ensure that Badoni continues donning its dark blue jersey. It was an emphatic show of faith in the youngster even as Gambhir, who is known to have unyielding trust in the players he likes, moved on from the franchise after the 2023 campaign.

Badoni seems to enjoy a fruitful relationship with current LSG head coach Justin Langer as well. While interacting with the media after hitting a double century in his first match as Delhi captain in the Ranji Trophy last November, he was forthcoming on the lessons gleaned from attending a training camp with the former Aussie opener in Perth in 2023.

"The wickets in Perth are very different to what we have in India. They were bouncy surfaces. Playing there gave me good exposure. Langer taught me a lot about when to show my aggression and when to control it while batting. He also changed a few things in my batting grip. Those things are helping a lot," Badoni informed. "Langer has kept things clear. He has generally encouraged me to play my attacking game."

Badoni's growth also seems to have been propelled by getting to captain Delhi in the previous domestic season. Handed the reins of the team after the first four matches of the Ranji competition, Badoni immediately stepped up with an unbeaten 205 against Jharkhand, and showed that he can handle the extra responsibility without letting runs from his willow dry up. Even when Pant and Virat Kohli joined the team for one-off appearances in January, they were happy to let Badoni steer the ship as skipper.

Since this year's IPL began on March 22, the fact that he has had only two single-digit scores in 10 innings points to his greater productivity. He is now clearly an integral member of this batting unit, but if he is to take the next step in his evolution, he will have to start ensuring that more of his contributions count towards victories. For that, a few more runs from the pedigreed lot of Marsh, Markram, Pooran and Pant will certainly help.

THE GIST

- With swagger and self-belief complementing his stroke-making ability, Badoni largely conforms to the stereotype of cricketers from Delhi
- Badoni's growth also seems to have been propelled by getting to captain Delhi in the previous domestic season. Badoni immediately stepped up with an unbeaten 205 against Jharkhand
- He is now clearly an integral member of this batting unit, but if he is to take the next step in his evolution, he will have to start ensuring that more of his contributions count towards victories

The Biggest Stage for India's Boldest Conversations

THE HINDU GROUP

Schedule, May 10

10:00 am - 10:30 am
Priming the Pump: India's Oil Diplomacy

Hardeep Singh Puri
Hon'ble Union Minister, Petroleum and Natural Gas

In conversation with
Nistula Hebbar
Political Editor, The Hindu

10:35 am - 11:20 am
More Than a Sum of Parts:
Reimagining India's Federalism

Palanivel Thiaga Rajan
Hon'ble Minister, Information Technology and Digital Services, Tamil Nadu

Priyank Kharge
Hon'ble Minister, IT-BT, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Karnataka

P. Rajeeve
Hon'ble Minister, Law, Industries, and Coir, Kerala

Moderated by
Narayan Lakshman
Curator, The Hindu Huddle, and Opinion Editor, The Hindu

11:25 am - 11:55 am
Digital Superhighway:
Opportunities for India in the Digital Century

Ashwini Vaishnaw
Hon'ble Union Minister for Railways, Information and Broadcasting, Electronics and Information Technology

In conversation with
Varghese K. George
Resident Editor, The Hindu

12:00 noon - 12:30 pm
Bullets, Bombs and the Human Spirit:
Kashmir's Quest for a Lasting Peace

Omar Abdullah
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Jammu and Kashmir

In conversation with
Narayan Lakshman
Curator, The Hindu Huddle, and Opinion Editor, The Hindu

12:35 pm - 1:05 pm
Let's Get Gritty: Indigenous Cinema in a Mainstream Environment

Vetri Maaran
Director, Producer, Screenwriter

In conversation with
Baradwaj Rangan
Film Critic

1:10 pm - 2:15 pm
Lunch

2:20 pm - 3:05 pm
In the Hood: The New Forces Shaping Subcontinental Geopolitics

Ranil Wickremesinghe
Former President, Sri Lanka

T.S. Tirumurti
Former Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, New York

Moderated by
Suhasini Haidar
Diplomatic Affairs Editor, The Hindu

3:10 pm - 3:40 pm
North and South:
Big Divide to Growing Chasm in Indian Cinema

Anurag Kashyap
Director, Producer, Actor

In conversation with
Baradwaj Rangan
Film Critic

3:45 pm - 4:30 pm
Let's Talk Work: Future of the Workplace

K. Ganesh
Serial Entrepreneur and Partner, GrowthStory

Hemant Malik
Wholetime Director, Divisional Chief Executive - Foods, ITC

Jayen Mehta
Managing Director, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation

Suparna Mitra
Chief Executive Officer, Watches and Wearables Division, Titan

Moderated by
L.V. Navaneeth
CEO, The Hindu Group

4:35 pm - 5:20 pm
Non-Communicable Diseases:
Trojan Horse of India's Health

Dr. Anoop Misra
Chairman, Fortis C-Doc Hospital for Diabetes and Allied Sciences

Dr. Chandrakant Lahariya
Health and Social Sector Policy Adviser

Dr. Preetha Reddy
Executive Vice Chairperson, Apollo Hospitals

Moderated by
Ramya Kannan
Chief of Bureau, Tamil Nadu, The Hindu

5:25 pm - 6:10 pm
AI for All: Dream of a Democratised and Ethical Technology

Astha Kapoor
Co-founder, Aapti Institute

Kalika Bali
Senior Principal Researcher, Microsoft Research, India

Tanvi Lall
Strategy, People+AI

Moderated by
Manu Joseph
Author, Columnist, and Screenwriter

6:15 pm - 6:25 pm
Closing Remarks

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J BG-BGE

GO specifies what's allowed, prohibited in Cubbon Park

From a cap on the number of people who can gather for an event to a ban on consumption of food and use of certain toys, the guidelines have covered several aspects

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

After multiple deliberations about what is allowed and what is not inside one of Bengaluru's biggest lung spaces, Cubbon Park, the State government recently passed an order with a specific list of do's and don'ts to be followed inside the park. From a cap on the number of people who can gather for an event to a ban on consumption of food and use of certain toys, the guidelines have covered several aspects.

The Order gives the green signal for events like walkathons/marathons, public awareness programmes by government departments, health camps set up by recognised charitable trusts and walking inside the park between 5.30 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

When it comes to hobby readers, writers or artists, the order specifies that not more than 20 readers or writers can gather at once. It also suggests that a 15-acre area from the gazebo near the BSNL side entrance of the park, through the canal bridge up to the parking area adjacent to the High Court building, can be designated for visitors to enjoy non-commercial activities such as reading, painting, yoga, meditation and other get togethers. "If these gatherings include more than 20 people, then the organisers should get permission from the Deputy Director of Cubbon Park," the Order says.

If gatherings include more than 20 people, organisers will have to get permission from the Deputy Director of Cubbon Park. FILE PHOTO

Guidelines for park users

Dos	Don'ts
Walkathons/marathons with prior permission	Hawking inside the park
Walking in the morning and evening	Littering
Cycling, skating (no training)	Consumption of food
Photography with permission	Playing on the lawn
Health camps of charitable trusts	Playing with balloons, kites, and frisbees
Hobby writing, reading, painting etc. (up to 20 members.)	Commercial activities, installation of banners/posters
	Pre/post-wedding shoots, baby shoots, modelling shoots, reel shoots
	Press conferences, birthday parties

In 2023, when the Horticulture Department had said that photography was not involved inside the park, it had received a lot of backlash. Now, it has been made clear that visitors and tourists can use phones or cameras and take photographs, but pre/post wedding shoots, baby photo shoots, modelling shoots or shooting for reels or other commercial videos are prohibited.

Photography enthusiasts who would like to do nature, plant or wildlife photography inside the park can also get permission from the Horticulture Department and carry on with their shoots.

While permitting activities like cycling and skating, the government has specified that classes/training for the same cannot be held in the park. It has also banned playing inside the park with balloons, kites and frisbees which often pose a threat to the ecosystem. To the disappointment of visitors, the order reiterates the earlier rule banning food consumption inside the park to prevent littering, which remains to be a huge problem for now.

Implementation is key

While regular visitors say that they are in support of the regulations, it is important that the Horticulture Department takes steps to implement them. The Department has said that a fine of ₹500 will be imposed on those who violate the guidelines and strict legal action will be taken against repeat offenders.

"While levying penalty is on one side, the Horticulture Department should first use more signage inside the Park to create awareness among people about designated areas and rules. They should also increase the number of security staff to ensure that the rules are not being violated. In a city already facing a severe crunch of public spaces, these guidelines will help to see that the people get a space like that, while also not misusing it," said Sunitha Kumar, a member of the Cubbon Park Conservation Committee. "The guidelines are to ensure that the activities of conservation of the lung spaces are not hindered. We are also expecting similar guidelines for Lalbagh in about two weeks," said M. Jagadeesh, Joint Director, Parks and Gardens, Horticulture Department.

QR code ticket-vending machines now at Baiyappanahalli station

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To enhance commuter convenience and reduce congestion at the ticket counter, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has introduced QR code-enabled ticket vending machines at Baiyappanahalli metro station. These self-service kiosks, designed to dispense paper tickets embedded with QR codes, aim to streamline the ticketing process for daily metro users.

The move follows the successful pilot launch of similar machines at M.G. Road and Cubbon Park stations on the Purple Line. Now, two such compact green-coloured machines have been installed at Baiyappanahalli. According to a BMRCL official, the entire process of purchasing a QR code ticket takes less than a minute, offering a swift alternative to the conventional token system.

"These kiosks are introduced to help commuters bypass the long queues at manual ticket counters," the official said. "They are user-friendly, multilingual, and designed for self-operation. However, to assist first-time users or those needing help, a contractor-appointed staff member is stationed nearby."

One of the machines at Baiyappanahalli metro station. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Each kiosk prints out a paper ticket containing a QR code that can be scanned at the Automatic Fare Collection (AFC) gates. "The earlier pilot at M.G. Road and Cubbon Park stations saw the deployment of six and eight machines respectively. Their utility was especially evident during large-scale events like IPL matches, when scores of passengers preferred using the vending machines over standing in lengthy queues," official added.

On average, about 70 to 80 commuters makeing use of these machines daily at the pilot stations. Anusha Rao, a regular metro commuter, welcomed the development, saying, "These QR machines are incredibly convenient. I no longer have to wait behind a long line during peak hours, especially when I'm in a hurry. The process is fast, and the interface is simple to understand. It's a good step forward in Bengaluru where the metro is always crowded."

Another commuter, Ramesh K., who works in Indiranagar, said, "This is a much-needed upgrade. I used the QR vending machine during peak hours whenever I took the metro which made me avoid wasting time in a massive queue. It's great to see BMRCL finally adopting digital solutions that make our commute easier. I hope they expand this to more stations soon."

A BMRCL official said that they are planning to roll out similar vending machines at other high-footfall stations in the near future.

Unauthorised construction: Accountability tightened

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a major move to curb unauthorised construction, the State has notified the Karnataka Planning Authority (Levy of Penalty on Jurisdictional Officer for Failure to Prevent Unauthorised Development) Rules, 2021. These rules, effective since April 8 hold jurisdictional officers directly accountable for failing to prevent illegal layout developments and deviations from plans.

The notification specifies that penalties will be imposed by a competent authority based on jurisdiction. Before punishments are enforced, the accused must be given a fair hearing. All fines collected will be routed to a designated government account and used for development.

The notification categorises officers across urban and rural planning bodies – from BDA, BBMP, Urban Development Authorities, and Gram Panchayats – to clearly establish who is answerable in each area. The BDA Commissioner, BBMP Commissioner are also liable to pay the fine as per the notification.

Under the new framework, any officer found negligent will face strict penalties: The first-time offence is a ₹50,000 fine, the second is ₹1,00,000, and the third and subsequent offences report should be submitted to the State government for disciplinary action under the Karnataka Civil Services Rules.

Concern over passenger's behaviour on bus

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BMTC issued a statement expressing concern over a viral video showing a senior citizen allegedly misbehaving with a woman aboard a BMTC bus. The incident reportedly took place on Monday around 3.30 pm on bus number KA 51 F 6204, operating on route 276/22 near Vidyaranyapura. The video shows a confrontation between an elderly man and the woman, prompting outrage.

BMTC said it has taken cognizance of the incident. It added that will take appropriate action if a formal complaint is filed.

No question paper leak, clarifies KPSC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Responding to allegations that the question paper for the Mains exam for recruitment of Gazetted Probationers held on Monday could have been leaked as a question paper bundle had opened even before it reached an exam centre in Bengaluru, the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) has emphatically denied the allegations on Tuesday. "No question paper was leaked during the Essay paper exam of the main examination. There was no other kind of lapse except for the possibility that the packing cover of the question paper was mechanically torn," it said in a statement issued on Tuesday. "A thorough investigation has been conducted on this matter and detailed reports have been obtained from the supervisors of the examination sub-centres and the invigilators appointed by the Commission," it said.

In its statement, KPSC claimed that the cover that was opened before the question paper bundle reached the centre in this particular case is a "waterproof plastic cover used to protect the question papers from damage during transportation", which are "only for the purpose of protecting them from liquids and are not tamper evident covers".

Further the KPSC said that all the security seals on the boxes, trunks and tamper-evident covers containing the question papers distributed to the said examination sub-centre were found to be intact. This was confirmed by the candidates, sub-centre supervisors, local invigilators and room inspectors.

"Therefore, it is possible that the plastic covers that were packed to protect the liquids inside the tamper-evident envelopes in room-2 of the said sub-center may have been mechanically torn during packing or transportation, and there are no other shortcomings. Furthermore, no such reports have been received from any other examination sub-centers conducted by the Commission," KPSC said.

It further assured aspirants that the commission was not only taking care in maintaining confidentiality, safety and security of the exam materials, but was also acting in the most transparent manner and appealed to aspirants not to be discouraged by baseless claims on social media.

Health, education are foundations of good society, says Premji at RGUHS convocation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Health and education are the foundations of a good society and country. These are fields of service, not business, Azim Premji, chairman of Azim Premji Foundation and founder-chairman of Wipro Ltd., said.

Delivering the address at the 27th annual convocation of the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) on Tuesday, he said: "A healthy and educated population is the foundation of a vibrant society and nation. But the effort to keep the population healthy and educated is the real service. It cannot be treated as a business. Every human being in India deserves the best possible health and education, regardless of what they can pay. Without this, we cannot build a strong nation."

He advised young professionals to focus on strengthening the public health system. "The Public health system, preventive and community health services in primary care may not seem the most exciting to young professionals, but they are far more critical to a population's health than the most sophisticated superspeciality care, we must invest in these areas, both as a country and as individuals," he advised.

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, founder-chairman of Wipro Ltd. Azim Premji, RGUHS V-C Bhagavan B.C., Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil, conferring honorary doctorates on Dr. Hombe Gowda Sharat Chandra, Dr. Girish Rao, and Dr. G.T. Subhas during RHUGS convocation in Bengaluru on Tuesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Sharan Prakash Patil, Medical Education Minister, said, "Aspire to work with the government, even if you get a lucrative offer from corporate hospitals. Your knowledge and skills must be directed towards achieving equitable healthcare. Every individual deserves compassionate care, regardless of income, location, gender or social status," Dr. Patil said. He emphasised that a sensitive mind and a strong ethical framework were the foundations of effective medical care. "In this fast-evolving age of technology and advanced medicine, never forget the values of compassion, listening, and cultural sensitivity. These must accompany your professionalism," he advised.

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, Chancellor of the university, advised students to upgrade their knowledge regularly. "In the era of artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics, even medical professionals must keep learning and upgrading themselves," he said.

A total of 63,982 candidates, including 54,517 in UG courses, 8,588 in PG courses, 82 in Ph.D, 265 in superspeciality courses, six in PG diplomas, 515 in fellowships, nine in certificate courses, were awarded certificates. Also, 109 gold medals and cash prizes were awarded to students.

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Description of work	Due date
252623 000357	Procurement of Trapezodial Galvalume Roof Sheet, Colour coated side cladding sheet and Galvanised 'Z' Purlin for TNPL Unit - II.	15.05.2025

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions, tender fee, EMD etc., are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from websites : www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app

DIPR/1932/Tender/2025 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

ATAL BHUJAL YOJANA
(Minor Irrigation and Groundwater Development Department)
Office of the Project Director, State Program Management Unit (SPMU), #1/1, 2nd Floor, K.S.F.C Bhavan, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560 052.

No: ABHY/IT/02/2024-25 Date: 06.05.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Only through kpp portal)

SPMU, Atal Bhujal Yojana, invited tender from eligible bidders in two cover system through kpp Portal for **"Supply, Installation and Commissioning of GIS software and IT equipment's to State Program Management Unit, Atal Bhujal Yojana of Karnataka-Call-2"**

The detailed notification regarding eligibility and other details can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The tender document can be downloaded through "kpp portal" from **07.05.2025** onwards and last date for receipt of tender is as mentioned in tender document. Further details can be obtained from the office hours from **10:00 hrs to 17:30 hrs.**

Sd/-
Tender Inviting Authority,
SPMU, Atal Jal, Karnataka

DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO506/25-26

Government of Karnataka
Department Health and Family Welfare Services Office of The Chief Medical Officer,
Taluk General Hospital, Bhadravathi
e-mail: cmobdvt@gmail.com
No.: GHB/OS/02/2025-26 Date: 05.05.2025

Brief Tender Notice

Subject; Invitation for e-Tender regarding providing Group D and Non-Clinical services management facility through outsource for Taluk General Hospital, Bhadravathi for the year 2025-26.

Tender applications are invited in two cover system as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 from eligible Contractors for providing Group D and Non-Clinical (Cleaning Staff) workers services through outsource for Taluk General Hospital, Bhadravathi for the year 2025-26 and Bids can be submitted within 5.30 PM on 20.05.2025. For Tender Forms, E.M.D., regarding Tender Terms and Conditions and further information can be viewed in website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or contact during office working hours. Office Mobile No.: 9164823174 & 7349760984 & 9964306757. Approx. amount of Tender: Rs. 69.00 lakhs (Rupees sixty nine lakhs only).

Sd/- Chief Medical Officer,
Taluk General Hospital, Bhadravathi.

DIPR/smg/No.29/05/ksmca/25-26/180

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಉಡುಪಿ
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ.: ಕಾಇಂ/ಪಂರಾಇಂವಿಉ/ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ 02/2025–26:ಎಇ–1/257/ದಿನಾಂಕ :05.05.2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ e- portal ನಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಉಡುಪಿ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರವರಿಂದ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ನ 2021–22 ಹಾಗೂ 2022–23 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಯೋಜನೆ ಮತ್ತು 2023–24 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಮರಳು ರಾಜಧನ ಹಾಗೂ ಸ್ವಂತ ಅನುದಾನದ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ (Standard Tender Documents for Procurement of Goods) ನ ನಿಭಂದನೆಗೊಳ ಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜಿಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕದಂದು Government of Karnataka e-procurement portal WEB site https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ವಿವರ	ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ	ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ
1	ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಬ್ರಹ್ಮಾವರ ತಾಲೂಕು ಉಪ್ಪೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಹೊಸ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ರಚನೆ.	65.00	130000.00	ಕ್ಲಾಸ್ 3 ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು

1. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 05–05–2025 ರಿಂದ 13–05–2025 ರ 4.00 (PM) ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.
2. ಟೆಕ್ನಿಕಲ್ ಬಿಡ್ಡುಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 14–05–2025 ರ 04.30 (PM). ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ
3. ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡುಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 16–05–2025 ರ 11.00 (AM) ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ ಇನ್ನಿತರೆ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳು, ಷರತ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳನ್ನು ಅಥವಾ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಚೇರಿಯವರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಉಡುಪಿ

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Medical Superintendent, Banashankari Referral Hospital, 17th Main Road, 27th Cross, Bangalore-70

No:BSKRH/PR/921/25-26 Date:-06.05.2025

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTIFICATION

BBMP invites bids for Auction cum Sale of unusable hospital items such as Electrical/Electronic Equipments, Steel Cots, Almirahs, Old mattress, Old linen, Old furniture's, Surgical Instruments, Bed side Lockers, Screens and other Items collected from Banashankari Referral Hospital and Maternity Hospitals on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" under Bruhat Bengaluru Mahangara Palike(Admin), in below mention Referral Hospital and Maternity Hospitals.

Sl. No	Name of the Hospitals	Date and Time of Auction
1	Banashankari Referral Hospital	14-05-2025 Morning 11.30am
2	Hosakerehalli Referral Hospital(YMH)	
3	Gavipuram Guttahalli Maternity Hospital	
4	Jayanagar Maternity Hospital	
5	N.R.Colony Maternity Hospital	
6	Azadnagar Maternity Hospital	

Terms and Conditions:
1) Bidders can participate in the Auction by paying EMD amount of Rs.5000/- by DD drawn in favor of The Commissioner, BBMP, Bangalore. Before 2Hours of Auction.
2) Bidders who are participating in the Auction can inspect the items in the concerned Hospitals before the Auction Date. Successful bidders should pay the full Auction amount by deduction the EMD on the same day of the auction and bidder should bear the Transportation of the items.
3) EMD of unsuccessful bidders will be refunded on the same day.
4) BBMP Committee reserves the right to accept or reject the same of unused it at any stage.

Sd/- Medical Superintendent, Banashankari Referral Hospital.

Birds that thrive in urban spaces sport colours different from less successful ones

The urban colour homogenisation hypothesis says that cities render bird colours more uniform; this idea doesn't hold up at a global scale; once one accounts for species richness, cities actually have more colour-diverse bird communities; the requirements for survival and propagation in a forest and an urban environment are different

Monika Mondal

Blue-faced honeyeaters, with their bright blue plumage, have become more common in Australia's cities. J.J. HARRISON (CC BY-SA)

In 2016, when Juan Diego Ibáñez-Álamo at the University of Granada in Spain met Kaspar Delhey, an expert in bird colouration at the Max Planck Institute for Biological Intelligence, a new collaboration was born.

"He suggested we study whether urbanisation is associated with differences in bird colouration," Mr. Delhey said.

Many studies have investigated how urban noise has been changing the way city birds talk to each other. But scientists know little about what urbanisation is doing to the way birds look.

The collaboration soon blossomed into the world's first large-scale, global study of how urban environments can control which birds – and which colours – can thrive in cities.

In a new study, Mr. Delhey, Mr. Ibáñez-Álamo, and their colleagues reported what they found when they analysed colour data from nearly all bird species around the world alongside a reference database.

The results were unexpected.

"Contrary to expectations, bird species that do well in cities tend to be quite colourful," Mr. Delhey said. "Some of the least successful species were largely brown, colours that we humans often consider dull or cryptic."

Published on April 4 in *Ecology Letters*, the study paper revealed that urban birds that are able to lead fuller lives are also more likely to sport blue, grey, and black plumage.The findings challenge some long-held assumptions in urban ecology.

Breaking through

"If you look at a city park, you may find fewer species than in a nearby forest. But those species tend to be more colourful," Mr. Ibáñez-Álamo said.

However, the urban colour homogenisation hypothesis holds that cities render bird colours more uniform. "We tested this idea at a global scale and found it doesn't hold up: once you account for species richness, cities actually have more colour-diverse bird communities," he added.

Colour differences between male and female birds are often due to sexual selection: males evolve brighter plumage to attract mates or assert dominance. Females may be more cryptically coloured because they often incubate the eggs and take care of the offspring. "It has been suggested that in urban environments, sexual selection may be weakened, and therefore the difference between male and female colours should be reduced. We, however, do not find any evidence," Mr. Delhey said.

"Bird colours vary dramatically around the globe alongside variations in climate, habitat, diet, migration, type of mating system, whether they live in groups or not, etc.," Delhey said.

Some colours, like yellow or red, are derived from carotenoids in food, while the blacks and greys are the result of melanin.

Darker-coloured birds may have an edge in polluted environments, where melanin could bind to toxins. But the strongest and most consistent pattern, the researchers found, was the decline of browns.

Being seen is dangerous

In their study, the researchers found that successful city birds are more likely to be colourful while avoiding brown.

Brown colors are often found in species that live in the understory of forests, which is similarly coloured. The green spaces are different in cities. "Even if you have a park, you also have a lot of asphalt or concrete, which changes the brown background that you will have in a natural forest with dying leaves and sticks and even the soil," Mr. Ibáñez-Álamo said.

Brown is considered to be a cryptic colour yet it appears to lose its ecological value in human-built environments, which are often much more complex than forests. The researchers don't yet know why city birds prefer to be more

> If you look at a city park, you may find fewer species than in a nearby forest. But those species tend to be more colourful

colourful. One possibility is that in urban environments, predation risk is often lower, potentially allowing birds to be more expressive with their plumage rather than lay low.

According to Mr. Ibáñez-Álamo, the "why" remains an open question for now.

Factors such as predator density, availability of food, light conditions, and nesting space all interact with plumage colour. In some regions, researchers have found that fewer predators has meant local birds could afford to be more conspicuous. In others, food scarcity has favoured birds that are less showy.

Urbanisation filters species

Mr. Delhey said urban ecology is becoming a kind of evolutionary laboratory. As more species travel to parts of the world they haven't been to before, the ways in which they're adapting – from song pitch to feather hue – are offering researchers insights into their survival as much as life's astonishing plasticity.

Even so, or maybe for this reason, more research is required. "Any differences in colouration we detect are rather subtle. We'll always find exceptions," Mr. Delhey said.

Even as researchers delve into the "why," it appears that cities – by selecting for certain traits, environments, and now colours – are nudging evolution in slow, quiet increments in possibly new directions. The new study itself has far-reaching implications. "You might think that cities are just grey and lifeless, but in fact they host a different kind of avian beauty," Mr. Ibáñez-Álamo said.

As biodiversity declines in many parts of the world, both the ecological and the cultural values attached to urban wildlife become more significant. Understanding the patterns therein can help make cities more hospitable for a wider range of species.

"We cannot really tear apart cause and effect because it's a relative study. There could be other factors that we have not considered,"Mr. Ibáñez-Álamo said. "I think that the next step will be to try to see whether other organisms, let's say insects or mammals, follow the same patterns."

Arthropods, he said by way of example, are tremendously diverse. "And they also suffer from a reduction in the city, in urban areas. It will be super-interesting to identify whether they follow the same patterns."

(Monika Mondal is a freelance science and environment journalist. a.monikamondal@gmail.com)

THE GIST

Colour differences between males and females are often due to sexual selection. Males evolve brighter plumage to attract mates or assert dominance. Females may be more cryptically coloured because they take care of the offspring

The most consistent pattern was the decline of brown, which is found in species living in the similarly coloured understory of forests. Green spaces are different in cities. Brown appears to lose its ecological value in human-built environments

Urban ecology is becoming a kind of evolutionary laboratory. It appears that cities, by selecting for certain traits, environments, and colours, are nudging evolution in slow, quiet increments in possibly new directions

BIG SHOT

A silvery blue butterfly after being released into the wild by scientists in April as part of a project to reintroduce butterflies into the habitat that was once occupied by the Xerces blue (*Glaucopsyche xerces*) — which went extinct in the early 1940s — in San Francisco. AP

QUESTION CORNER

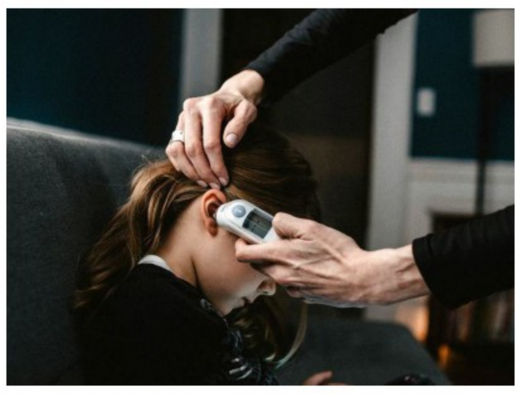
When warmer is better

Q: Why does our temperature go up when we are ill?

A: The increase in core temperature observed during illness is commonly called fever and occurs in response to infection by a pathogen or certain types of physical injury. When a person becomes infected with bacteria, the white blood cells of the immune system recognise the incoming pathogen as foreign and initiate the first stages of the immune response: the acute phase.

In this reaction, white blood cells called monocytes release a variety of proteins called cytokines. They are central to the immune response. In particular, there is a predominance of two types of cytokine called interleukin-1 and tumour necrosis factor-alpha. These cytokines cause an increase in body temperature.

It is not clear how, but it is known that they also cause the production of other chemicals in the brain. The main group of chemicals here are the postaglandins. They react very strongly with the hypothalamus area of the brain, which then sends a signal to the body to increase the temperature.



The growth rates of various types of bacteria are slowed at temperatures above normal body temperature. KELLY SIKKEMA/UNSPLASH

The mechanisms that the brain employs to effect this are not certain but are known to include increasing the metabolic rate and shivering. These two processes burn metabolic fuel faster than normal, and body heat is given off.

Experimental work shows that elevated temperatures can enhance certain aspects of the immune response. The growth rates of various types of bacteria are slowed at temperatures above normal body temperature.

- Nigel Eastmond, University of Liverpool

For feedback and suggestions
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BBMP to get dedicated disaster management body

With the move, the civic body will now be better positioned to implement data-driven planning and efficiently utilise disaster management funds, says a senior official

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government will soon issue a notification on the formation of a dedicated Urban Disaster Management Authority (UDMA) for the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) limits, according to a senior government official.

As per the proposal, BBMP Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao will be appointed the chairperson of the new body, and the Deputy Commissioner will continue to oversee disaster management activities in areas outside the BBMP limits, said the official.

Until now, disaster management responsibilities of the entire Bengaluru Urban district were under the purview of the DC, who also heads the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA).

However, under the provisions of the Disaster

M. Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike. FILE PHOTO

Management (Amendment) Act, 2024, the formation of a separate UDMA is now mandatory within municipal corporation jurisdictions.

The Chief Commissioner will lead this authority, while the Deputy Commissioner will continue to oversee disaster management activities in areas of the district which are outside BBMP limits.

Till today, the BBMP does not have a dedicated cell for disaster management, resulting in poor implementation of flood mitigation measures. The official emphasised the pressing need for an urban-centric disaster management mechanism, especially in light of recurring urban floods and climate-related challenges. While the BBMP has previously formed several teams and control rooms to address floods, the absence of a dedicated authority has hampered effective and sustained disaster response, the official opined.

The formation of the UDMA will allow the BBMP to devise an urban-specific disaster management plan, which will be submitted to the State government for approval.

This framework is expected to streamline resource allocation and improve flood mitigation strategies.

A senior BBMP official noted that the DDMA has been constrained in handling the growing complexities of disaster management in a rapidly expanding metropolis like Bengaluru.

With the Chief Commissioner at the helm, the BBMP will now be better positioned to implement data-driven planning and efficiently utilise disaster management funds.

Sweet shop staffer held for recording woman in washroom

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Koramangala police have arrested a housekeeping worker of a sweet shop on the charges of recording a woman on his mobile phone while she was in the washroom on April 25.

The victim, a 25-year-old private firm employee, had gone to Anand Sweets on 60 Feet Road in Koramangala to use the washroom at 8 p.m. In the room, she noticed a movement through the fibre glass wall in front of her. When she bent down to check, she was startled to see a mobile phone. She was then shocked to see the phone move and realised that someone was recording her from outside. She immediately raised an alarm and later approached the police to file a complaint.

Based on the plaint, the police registered an FIR against an unknown person charging him under Section 77 (crime of voyeurism, which involves capturing, observing, or disseminating images of someone engaging in a private act) and arrested the accused. However, they could not retrieve the phone he used.

The victim later posted her ordeal on social media, highlighting how unsafe public places had become, urging women to stand up to sexual predators.

"On April 25th, I was recorded inside a washroom at a trusted, popular place I've visited since childhood. What followed was a nightmare—panic, police, confessions, and emotional manipulation. They told me to stay quiet 'for my business' and to 'move on.' But I refused. Because silence protects predators..." she wrote on Instagram.

BBMP chief inspects footpaths

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BBMP Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao, on Tuesday, directed the officials to construct safe, accessible, and walkable footpaths by laying special focus on the Majestic area.

Mr. Rao conducted a two-hour inspection from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. across a 2.5-km stretch covering Gubbi Thotadappa Road, Dhanwantari Road, Tank Bund Road, and areas surrounding the Kempegowda Bus Stand.

Accompanied by BBMP officials, including West Zonal Commissioner Suralkar Vikas Kishor and Special Commissioner (projects) Avinash Menon Rajendran, Mr. Rao emphasised prioritising pedestrian infrastructure.

During the inspection, he ordered immediate clearance of obstructions, including a large ring pipe and fallen branches near the Sangolli Rayanna statue. He also flagged sanitation issues around the Majestic Bus Stand, noting widespread public urination despite many public toilets in the locality. Officials were told to enforce strict measures to maintain cleanliness in the area.

At Shantala Silk Junction, Mr. Rao instructed the widening of the footpath using the available space inside the bus stand. He directed urgent repairs to broken curbs, damaged slabs, and the installation of bollards where necessary. Sewage leaks through duct openings were also brought to the attention of the concerned departments.

Highlighting the misuse of footpaths, Mr. Rao called for action against encroahments by vendors while allowing licensed hawkers to operate without obstructing pedestrian movement. He also instructed engineers to remove encroachments, including a wall, which was razed immediately using an earthmover, near Upparpet Police Station. Further, ward engineers were asked to inspect all roads for footpath issues and submit repair plans. Joint commissioners will randomly inspect sites to ensure compliance.

SBI
LHO, Amaravati, Gunfoundry, Abids, Hyderabad-500001 Ph: 040-2338 7503
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS
TENDER ID: LHO/AMR/P&E/2025-26/05/02
State Bank of India (SBI) invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from reputed and experienced Contractors for the Proposed Construction of Building for TIF Branch, SME Branch, RASMECC, AMCC, RBO and AO at Kurnool.
The interested parties, may please log on to https://bank.sbi → SBI In the News → Show more → Procurement news. The last date for submission of applications in the prescribed format with supporting documents at this office latest by 3.00 P.M. on 27.05.2025.
07.05.2025; Hyderabad — Asst. General Manager (P&E)

BEML LIMITED
(CIN: L35202KA1964GOI001530)
(A Govt. of India Mini Ratna Company under Ministry of Defence)
BANGALORE COMPLEX, POST BOX: 7501, NEW THIPPASANDRA POST, BANGALORE-560075
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e tender through BEML SRM Portal
BEML LIMITED, BANGALORE COMPLEX invites Public Tender-E mode (TWO Bid System)
Civil works tender ref: 6300039477
Work Description : Design and Construction of LHB Coach Production Facility including Painting Hangar on EPC Basis in Existing Machine Shop-2 Area.
Demolition of existing Old Buildings/MS Structures, Dismantling of Old Bullows & Conversion of Old Machine Shop into LHB Coach Facility including laying of new BG & SG Tracks, Construction of PEB Hangars, Office blocks, Toilet Blocks & other Civil, Electrical works at Bangalore Complex, BEML Limited, Bangalore
Approx. estimated value : Rs. 19,16,14,000/- inclusive of GST
EMD amount : Rs. 38,32,280/-
Period of contract: 08 Months
Last date & time for submission of bids : 27.05.2025 at 14.00 Hrs
Further details of tender can be obtained from following website: https://www.bemlindia.in/tenders/active-tenders/Bangalore complex. SRM Portal : https://bemlindia.in/eprocurement/index.php
Bidders are advised to visit above websites frequently for any corrigendum, extension, etc.
The management has the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereon.
Sd/- Asst. General Manager

THE HINDU
OPPORTUNITIES
GENERAL
KSIDC — KERALA STATE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
Online applications are invited from eligible applicants for appointment to the position of
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
on permanent basis.
Start date of submission of online application : 07.05.2025 (10:00 am)
Last date of submission of Online application : 21.05.2025 (5:00 pm)
For more details, visit at www.cmd.kerala.gov.in & www.ksidc.org
Sd/- Managing Director

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HUMANITIES: English • Media Studies • Visual Communication • Social Work • Psychology • Counselling Psychology • Clinical Psychology • Industrial Psychology • Kannada • Student Counsellor
Candidates with Ph.D/NET Qualification Preferred
COLLEGE OF LAW: Asst. Professor • Dean, School of Law
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Tel: 080-68737777
career@kristujayanti.com

माधव प्रौद्योगिकी एवं विज्ञान संस्थान, ग्वालियर
MADHAV INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY & SCIENCE, GWALIOR
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(Declared under Distinct Category by Ministry of Education, Government of India)
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E-mail : vicechancellor@mitsgwalior.in, Website : www.mitsgwalior.in
Ref. No. : Advt./Faculty/2025/1
RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION
Applications are invited for the regular position of Professor/ Associate Professor/Assistant Professor in the Computer Science and its allied Emerging Areas & Humanities and Contractual engagement of Professor of Practice & Student Counsellor at Madhav Institute of Technology & Science-Deemed University, Gwalior. Eligible deserving candidates are required to submit the application in prescribed proforma available on MITS-DU website along with required processing fee and testimonials on or before 04:00 p.m. on 16.06.2025 to the office of the Vice Chancellor, MITS-DU Gwalior. Please visit the MITS-DU website www.mitsgwalior.in for application proforma and detailed information.
(Dr. R.K. Pandit) Vice Chancellor

ಮೀನಾ
ಬಜಾರ್
Meena
BAZAR
Arts, Crafts, Handlooms and Lifestyle Exhibition
25th April 2025 to
11th May 2025
10.30 AM - 7 PM
17 Days Exhibition
Venue:
KARNATAKA CHITRAKALA PARISHATH
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Shivananda Circle, Kumara Krupa Road, Bangalore - 01
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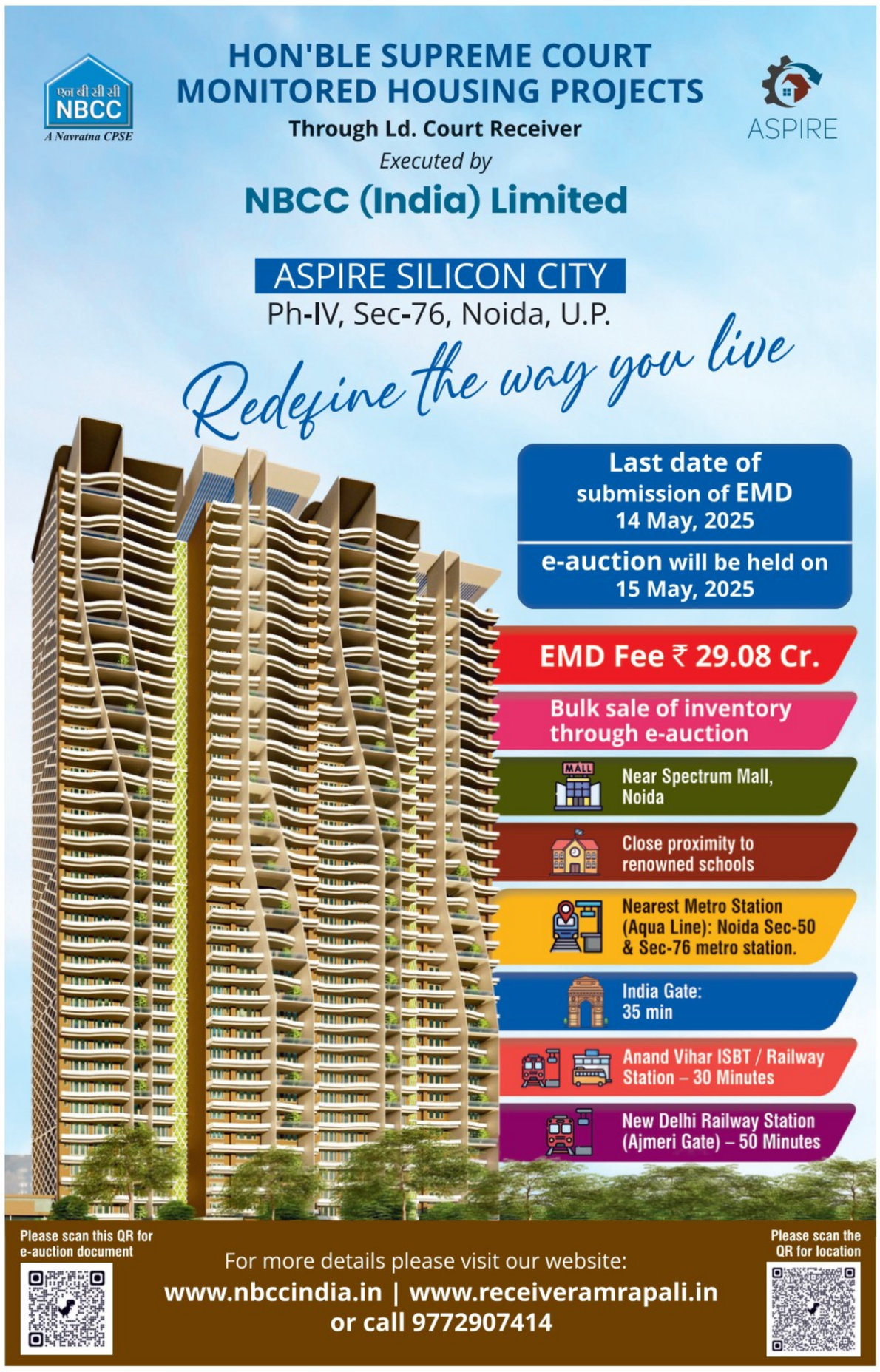
HANDLOOMS | HOME DECOR | HANDICRAFTS | CLOTHING | JEWELLERY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Please scan the QR for location

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of SC judges who have made their assets public

21 The decision came against the backdrop of the controversy surrounding the alleged recovery of a stash of cash from the official premises of Justice Yashwant Varma, while he was serving as a judge of the Delhi High Court. On April 1, all judges agreed to make their declarations public. ANI

India's rank in the 2025 UN Human Development Report

130 India's Human Development Index value increased from 0.676 in 2022 to 0.685 in 2023 and life expectancy rose to 72 years, the highest recorded for India. Mean years of schooling improved from 6.57 to 6.88. Gross National Income per capita also rose to $9,046.76. PTI

Number of refugees allowed entry into the U.S. by court order

12,000 The court order partially blocks the U.S. President's efforts to suspend the nation's refugee admissions programme. A U.S. District Judge ordered the administration to resume processing the cases of these refugees. PTI

Number of electric vehicles India will have by 2032

123 In million. The India Energy Storage Alliance and Customised Energy Solutions report highlights EV adoption as vital to meeting India's net-zero target by 2070 and achieving 30% EV penetration by 2030. Growth is being driven by supportive policies like the FAME-II scheme. PTI

Worth of scrupulous redevelopment projects

565 In ₹ crore. The Economic Offences Wing of the Mumbai Police had launched a special investigation against these 'redevelopment projects' on March 20, 2024. The police named degree-holding officers as being involved in the case. ANI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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How the judiciary maintains accountability

All judicial powers have been vested in the Constitution, and judges are bound to work within that constitutional ambit. Once any of them go beyond it, they may be removed on the grounds of proved misbehaviour, which would include violation of the Constitution

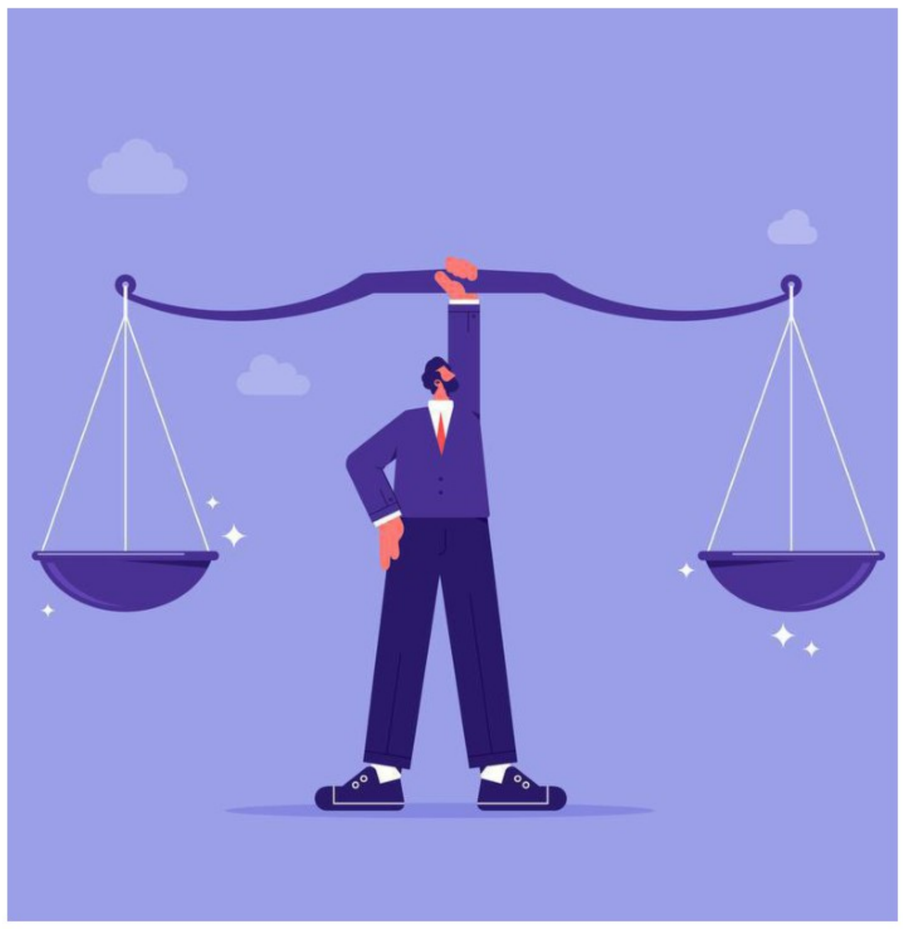
LETTER & SPIRIT

C.B.P. Srivastava

The recent comments by the Vice-President of India on the role of judges has caused much anxiety and is a matter of serious concern that needs to be analysed properly. It is a well-known fact that with power comes responsibility. The position of the Vice-President is second in the order of precedence in India and therefore, anybody holding such a post needs to be extremely cautious before speaking, as his views might send wrong signals to the people. The current Vice-President, Jagdeep Dhankhar, in the context of the Supreme Court setting deadlines for Presidents and Governors to clear Bills approved by the Union/State legislatures, has stated that judges are working as a 'super parliament'; that judges cannot give directions to the President; and that judges are not accountable because the law of the land does not apply to them.

Dissecting the claims

The term 'super parliament' does not have any significance as Parliament is the supreme body constituted by the free will of the people reflecting the icon of popular sovereignty. No agency including the judiciary can go beyond it. It is to be noted that in order to prevent any arbitrary exercise of power by an independent judiciary, the framers of the Constitution had placed all judicial powers in the Constitution itself. This has been reiterated by the Supreme Court in *L. Chandra Kumar versus Union of India* (1997) in which the Court held that although all judicial powers are vested in the Constitution, the independence of the judiciary is fully secured because of the principle of separation of powers. If at any time judges try to exercise their powers arbitrarily, crossing the boundaries of the separation of powers, it shall be a gross violation of Article 50 and



GETTY IMAGES

the government which holds majority in Parliament may initiate a process for a removal of the judge concerned.

On the second issue, that the judiciary cannot give directions to the President, a perusal of his position in India needs to be explained. The President is the head of the State (it is clear when Article 52 is read with Article 1). Hence, he or she is elected according to the provisions contained in Articles 54 and 55 establishing India as a Republic. The President is the head of the Executive, the head of the armed forces and also the head of Parliament under Articles 53(1), 53(2) and 79 respectively. Therefore, he is vested with powers according to his position. Giving assent to the Bills is the power of the President which is well within the limits of popular sovereignty. The President cannot and shall not go beyond this doctrine of popular sovereignty. In more simpler words, if the assent is delayed inordinately, it would undermine the people's power which in itself would be undemocratic. Hence, the judiciary setting a time frame for giving assent to Bills is consistent with the requirements of popular sovereignty. It in no way undermines the dignity of the head of the State. Since the people of India abide by the Constitution and believe in its supremacy, all authorities including the President and Governor shall abide by the provisions of the Constitution.

On accountability

The statement given by the Vice-President that the law of the land does not apply to judges is not at all rational because he himself, as the second highest constitutional authority, questions the rule of law in India. The rule of law flows from the doctrine of the supremacy of the Constitution; questioning its efficacy and limitations would undermine the Constitutional mandate. As mentioned above, all judicial powers have been vested in the Constitution itself, and judges are bound to work within that constitutional ambit. Once any of them go beyond it, he may be removed on the grounds of proved misbehaviour, which would include violation of the Constitution. Moreover, Parliament is empowered to set aside a decision of the Court, if required, by making a new law. This provision also signifies the people's power and popular sovereignty.

Last but not the least, the Constitution of India has given powers to the judiciary to review the actions of the State and its instrumentalities for the purpose of establishing the rule of law to protect the rights of the people. The exercise of the inherent power of the Supreme Court to do complete justice under Article 142 is worth mentioning. When there is no express constitutional provision or parliamentary law on a particular subject or issue at hand, the Supreme Court has been vested with the power to become the custodian and sole interpreter of the Constitution.

Conclusively, whenever the country faces large-scale turbulence in almost all sectors, constitutional authorities and citizens both need to look at the events with a liberal mindset and should avoid doing or speaking anything which might ultimately prove detrimental to democratic and constitutional sentiments.

C.B.P. Srivastava is President, Centre for Applied Research in Governance, Delhi.

THE GIST

- The current Vice-President, Jagdeep Dhankhar, in the context of the Supreme Court setting deadlines for Presidents and Governors to clear Bills approved by the Union/State legislatures, has stated that judges are working as a 'super parliament'.
- The term 'super parliament' does not have any significance as Parliament is the supreme body constituted by the free will of the people.
- The statement given by the Vice-President that the law of the land does not apply to judges is not at all rational because he himself, as the second highest constitutional authority, questions the rule of law in India.

What are the challenges faced by the civil services?

What are the frameworks under which the bureaucracy functions?

Rangarajan. R

The story so far:

On the occasion of Civil Services Day (April 21), Cabinet Secretary T. V. Somanathan IAS, spoke about the importance of civil services in maintaining and strengthening democracy, the need for lateral entrants and greater transparency.

What is merit versus spoils system?

The merit system entails appointments to government posts after a rigorous selection process by an independent authority. In India, this commenced in 1858 when the British introduced the Indian Civil Service to select officers for administering the country. After independence, it is the Union Public Service Commission which conducts such exams. The merit system is aimed at building career bureaucrats who are expected to function without any political leanings and provide independent advice to the incumbent political executive. The spoils system works on the adage 'to the victor belong the spoils.' It is a system where the incumbent political executive appoints its supporters to various posts in the government. It has its origins in the U.S., and continued until 1883 when it was replaced largely by the merit system.

What is the role of the civil services?

The civil services have contributed significantly in the administration of our democratic system. As mentioned by the Cabinet Secretary, they have been instrumental in the conduct of free and fair elections, and ensuring smooth transfer of power both at the Centre and States. There have been numerous instances when States have been placed under President's rule, with the civil services ensuring uninterrupted administration during such times.

On the development side, they are a repository of institutional knowledge. They provide advice to ruling governments in policy making and also implement the policies made by the political executive. The administrative tasks of public bureaucracy include executing and monitoring programmes, and laying down laws, rules and regulations. Civil servants have been the fulcrum around which governance activities like delivery of essential services, providing relief operations etc., have been carried out.

What ails the civil services?

But the civil services also suffer from significant challenges. First, neutrality as a trait is fast eroding among bureaucrats, resulting in political bias in discharge of critical functions. It is pertinent to note that both the cause and effect of this phenomenon is the increasing political interference in all aspects of bureaucracy including postings and transfers. Second, career bureaucrats who are generalists, may lack the expertise needed to address technical challenges. Third, there is also significant corruption at all levels of the bureaucracy that often goes unpunished.

What reforms are required?

Some of the measures that need to be taken are summarised here.

In a democracy, the mandate is with the elected government and it needs to be respected. However, the neutral bureaucracy needs to be insulated from undue political interference to uphold the rule of law and constitutional values. To maintain a harmonious balance between the political and permanent executive, the autonomy of career bureaucrats is essential. This includes reasonable independence with respect to postings, tenures and transfers. Also, there needs to be a shift in the focus of bureaucrats from 'procedure' to 'outcomes.' Monitoring at present in the government is primarily through the measurement of outlays and at best through outputs. There is a need to move towards measurement of 'outcomes.' This reform can be hastened by hiring domain experts as lateral entrants, especially at senior levels. These reforms would uphold the essential traits of an effective civil service.

Rangarajan. R is a former IAS officer and author of 'Courseware on Polity Simplified'. The views expressed are personal.

THE GIST

- The merit system entails appointments to government posts after a rigorous selection process by an independent authority.
- But the civil services also suffer from significant challenges. First, neutrality as a trait is fast eroding among bureaucrats, resulting in political bias in discharge of critical functions.
- In a democracy, the mandate is with the elected government and it needs to be respected. However, the neutral bureaucracy needs to be insulated from undue political interference to uphold the rule of law and constitutional values.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF, RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION, BHUBANESWAR

Jal O Parimal Bhawan, Unit-V, Bhubaneswar-751001, Tel:0674-2395734, Fax No.0674-2394946; Email:cerwssodisha@gmail.com

Request for Proposal(RFP) Notice

No. 5910 / Dated 05-05-2025
(BID. No. EIC/RWS&S/02/2025-26)

RFP for Hiring of Agency for Professional Manpower Support for Water Testing Laboratory at State, District and Sub-Divisional Level under Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS), Odisha

The Engineer-in-Chief, RWSS, on behalf of the Government of Odisha in Panchayati Raj Department invites RFP for Hiring of Agency for Professional Manpower Support for Water Testing Laboratory at State, District and Sub-Divisional Level under Rural Water Supply and Sanitation(RWSS), Odisha from established Firm/ Agencies registered for a minimum period of 3 years under the Indian Companies Act, 1956/ Societies Registration Act/Trust Act/ Any Other relevant Act in India to carry out the work for hiring of Manpower Support for Water Testing Laboratory at State, District and Sub-Divisional Level under Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS), Odisha.

Interested Agency/ Firms may download the RFP document from Government of Odisha website i.e. **https://panchayat.odisha.gov.in/ from 13.05.2025 to 28.05.2025**. The last date for submission of RFP document is **30.05.2025 at 5 PM.**

The Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any/all RFP without assigning any reason thereof.

Engineer-in-Chief, RWS&S (O)

O-123 : OIPR-25003/11/0017/2526

Government of Karnataka.
(Public Works, Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division Bidar

NO: EE/PWD//Dvn/Bdr/JE-5/2025-26/ 270 Date: 05-05-2025

INVITATION FOR TENDERS

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer, PWD Divn. Bidar invites Tenders from eligible Tenderers, for below work indents. 1) Work Indent Number Category PWD/2025-26/RD/BD/WORK_ INDENT20511, 20608, 21227, 16856 & 21501 Ctegory Gen Amount for the work is Minmum Rs: 45.93 Lakhs and Maximum Rs: 424.50 Lakhs Tender documents may be downloaded from dt: 05.05.2025 from the KPPP portal of the Govt. of Karnataka Viz. kppp.karnataka.gov.in.Tenders must be submitted through e-procurement portal on or before 16.00 hours up to dt: 20.05.2025 Tenders will be opened on dt: 21.05.2025 Further any other information can be seen from the KPPP portal or can be had from the undersigned.

Executive Engineer,
PWD Divn. Bidar.

DIPR/Bidar/27/KSMC&A/2025-26

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through kpp portal)

BWSSB invites tenders from registered Agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560 009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for receipt of tender	Date & time for opening of tender
1	(East-1)	BWSSB/EE(East)-1/PB/213/ 2025-26 Date: 03.05.2025 (7th Call) (Tender Indent No. 1772)	Rs.33,47,082/- / Rs.67,000/-	13.05.2025 upto 4.00 pm	15.05.2025 after 5.00 pm
2		BWSSB/EE(East)-1/PB/213/ 2025-26 Date: 03.05.2025 (8th Call) (Tender Indent No. 2018)	Rs.68,64,424/- / Rs.1,37,300/-		
3		BWSSB/EE(East)-1/PB/213/ 2025-26 Date: 03.05.2025 (10th Call) (Tender Indent No. 1771)	Rs.44,62,393/- / Rs.89,300/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (East-1)

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/514/AKAR/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
GULBARGA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, KALABURAGI
(Autonomous Institution of Govt. of Karnataka)
E-mail:directorgimsgulbarga@gmail.com Phone No 08472-260252

No. GIMS/KLB/TENDER/DERMAT/PG/EQP/CR/186/2024-25/CALL-2/297 Date:-05-05-2025.

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement)

Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences, Kalaburagi invites **Re-tender** for eligible bidders in bid system (Techno-commercial Bid & Financial Bid) in e-procurement 2.0 mode for the SUPPLY OF **Post Graduate Equipments/Instruments to Dermatology Department at GIMS, Kalaburagi.** Details are available in the site: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Last date and time for upload of e-tender in E-procurement platform as follows.
1) Commencement of download of e-Tender Form from website-https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in **No.GIMS/KLB/TENDER/DERMAT/PG/EQP/CR/186/2024-25/CALL-2, DATED:05/05/2025, DME/2024-25/IND1273/CALL-2.** 2) Last Date for Queries: **09-05-2025 at 17:00 pm**, 3) Last Date for Uploading of Tender in e-procurement platform on or before: **13-05-2025 at 4.30 pm**, 4) Opening of Techno-Commercial Bid : **14-05-2025 at 05:00 pm**, 5) Opening of Tenders Financial bid : **15-05-2025 at 11:30 am**, 6) Tender amount : **Rs. 83,09,708=00**, 7) EMD : **Rs. 2,00,000=00**, 8) Contact Details: Director, GIMS Kalaburagi veresh Nagar sedam road Kalaburagi 585105. Office Email: directorgimsgulbarga@gmail.com Land Line:08472-260252 Cell:+91 9482093568 Tender Section Email: gimstenderklb22@gmail.com Cell:+91 9972688602

Sd/- Director
Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences, Kalaburagi.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/91/KSMC&A/2025-26

THE HINDU GROUP

'SPORTSTAR
INDIAN
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LEAGUE

DAY 47

Play now & start winning!

1. Which country defeated the West Indies 2–1 in a historic four-match Test series in 1995, ending their 15-year unbeaten streak in Test series?
2. Which South African cricketer famously dropped a catch off the then Australian captain during the 1999 Cricket World Cup, a mistake that led to South Africa's unsuccessful bid for the title?
3. Which Australian cricketer succeeded Mark Taylor as Test captain in 1999 and later led the team to 15 of their world-record 16 successive Test victories?

*T&C apply.

Scan QR code or visit **newsth.live/SSIPLPA** to take the quiz. Get all three answers right and unlock a legendary Sportstar poster. **Top 3 winners* every day win gift vouchers.**

Yesterday's poster: Yuvraj Singh

Yesterday's Winners:
1. Thangam Ananda Kumar.S, Coimbatore | 2. D.Aruna, Vizianagaram | 3. Jharna Karfa, Jaipur

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BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560020.

No. BDA/EE(Ele)/128/2025-26 Dated: 06.05.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Bangalore Development Authority has invited short term tender for electrical related works **(Indent numbers: BDA/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT113, BDA/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT114 & BDA/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT115),** calendar of events is given below.

Calendar of events: 1. Date of availability of tender documents on e-portal: **07.05.2025. 2.** Last date and time for submission of tender pre-bid querries: **09.05.2025, upto 11.00 hrs. 3.** Date and time of Tender Pre-Bid Meeting: **09.05.2025, at 15.00 hrs. 4.** Last date and time for submission of tender: **14.05.2025, upto 17.00 hrs. 5.** Date of opening of technical bid of tender: **15.05.2025, after 17.00 hrs.**

Interested contractors may visit the e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for more details and are requested to contact the Electrical Division, BDA during office hours for more details.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Electrical)
Electrical division, BDA, Bangalore

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
'JAL BHAVAN', No. 6, 1st Stage, 1st Phase, BTM Layout, Bannerghatta Main Road, Bengaluru-560029.
Ph: 080-41106508
email: cekwbbng@gmail.com Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Through KPPP only)

1) No.KWB/TEC/CE(B)/Shidlaghata/AMRUT2.0/155/2025-26 Dtd: 05.05.2025.

Name of the work: "Providing WSS to Shidlaghatta City and 13 enroute villages with Ramasamudra tank as source under Amrut 2.0 (Tranche-3) including the Operation and Maintenance for a period of 5 years (including 1 year of Defect Liability Period) in DBOT mode." **Indent No. : KUWSDB/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT318/CALL-2.**

2) No.KWB/TEC/CE(B)/Kunigal/AMRUT2.0/156/2025-26 Dtd: 05.05.2025.

Name of the work: "Improvements to Water Supply System to Kunigal Town with Hemavati Canal and Kunigal Doddakere as source under AMRUT 2.0 (Tranche-3) including Operation & Maintenance for a period of 5 years (including 1 year DLP) through Design, Build, Operation and Transfer (DBOT) mode." **Indent No. : KUWSDB/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT319/CALL-2.**

For further details may be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER (B),
KUWS & D BOARD, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/YC/510/2025-26

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that my client intends to purchase the property described in the schedule hereunder from its present owner **MR.MAYUR VAMANAN** s/o Mr Alagesan Vamanan, having acquired title under a Sale Deed dated 13.04.2012 registered as Document No.161/2012-13 of Book I, CD No.INRD35 at the Sub-Registrar, Indiranagar, Bengaluru

All persons/ banks/ companies/ firms/ financial institutions having or claiming any right, title, estate or interest by way of inheritance, share, sale, mortgage, transfer, lease, tenancy, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, devise, bequest, exchange, pre-emption, possession or encumbrance or otherwise howsoever into or upon the Schedule Property herein below described, are called upon to intimate the same in writing to the undersigned by registered post at the below given address along with all the documents relating to such claim within **14 days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which any such claim of any party shall be deemed to have been waived for all legal practical purposes and shall not be entertained hereafter and we shall opine that the Schedule Property is free of any claims and my client will be free to proceed with the proposed purchase of the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel being the northern portion of the residential site bearing Old Municipal No.200, New No.46, **BBMP PID No.75-37-46,** E-PID No.5282153597, formed by the then Bangalore City Improvement Trust Board and now known as Bangalore Development Authority in Cambridge Road Extension and now known as Cambridge Layout III Cross, Someshwarapura (earlier Block No. Polo Ground), **Ulsoor, Bangalore 560 008** measuring on the East **15 feet,** on the West **15 feet,** on the North **46 feet** and on the South **46 feet** totally measuring **690 square feet** along with a residential house measuring a total built up area of **900 square feet** in Municipal No.200, New No.46, BBMP PID No.75-37-46 and bounded on the:

East by : Property No.247
West by : III Cross Road
North by : Property No.201
South by : Balance land in Site No.200, New No.46

Vivek Anand Anthony Britto
Vir Anthony Britto
Advocates
"Daisville", 633, 5th Main, Indiranagar II Stage, Bengaluru-560038

Place: Bengaluru Date: 07.05.2025

Tunnel road: MP opposes plan

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After DyCM D.K. Shivakumar chaired a meeting on Monday to discuss the use of a 45-acre plot in Hebbal, BJP MP from Bangalore South Tejasvi Surya voiced strong opposition to the Congress-led government's proposal to partially utilise the land for its ambitious tunnel road project.

On Tuesday, Mr. Surya wrote to Maheshwar Rao, MD, BMRCL and also the BBMP Chief Commissioner, urging him to reserve the land for proposed metro infrastructure and a multi-modal transport hub.

"If it is diverted for any other purpose such as a tunnel road, it would be a major and permanent setback for Bengaluru's public transport plans" he said.

ANDHRA PRADESH STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LTD
Head Office:10-152/1, Ashoknagar, Bandar Road, Vijayawada-520007

TENDER NOTICE

Lr. No.Proc./FRK/KMS-24-25/2 Date: 07.05.2024

APPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT WISE SUPPLY OF 22500 MTS OF RAW/BOILED FORTIFIED RICE KERNEL FROM THE FRK MANUFATURERS LOCATED IN ALL OVER INDIA TO DESIGNATED BUFFER GODOWNS IN THE DISTRICTS FOR RMS 2024-25 & KMS 2025-26 UNDER ZONE- I, II & III THROUGH NCDEX E MARKETS LIMITED (NEML) AUCTION PLATFORM IN ANDHRA PRADESH.

Interested Tenderers may visit website **www.apscscl.in** and also **www.neml.in** to view and download tender documents at free of cost.

Those who are interested to participate in tender should be registered with NCDEX e-Markets Ltd. on their website www.neml.in and can contact the Customer Service Group on phone numbers (+ 91-22)-48810500 / 9962059599 / 9032429420 or email: askus@neml.in. Last date for online registration and completion of formalities for submission of online tenders is **16.05.2024** by **5.00 PM IST.**

Sd/-
VC & MANAGING DIRECTOR

CITY CORPORATION BELAGAVI
C.T.S. No. 4821/26, 4821/27, R.S. No. 1005, Subhasha Nagara, Belagavi, Ph. : 0831-2405304, E-mail : itstaff_ulb_belgaum@yahoo.com, Website : www.belgaumcity.mrc.gov.in

No. : C.C.B./H.L.T./S.W.M./TND/KPPP/2025-26
Date : 06-05-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

The Commissioner, City Corporation Belagavi invites Tenders in accordance with KTPP Act 1999 Rules 2000 through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **for the 7 Different works** under 15th Finance Tied Grants of 2025-26 years.

The Last Date for the Submission of Tender is 26-05-2025

For more details visit online **Website : https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Any Addendum / Corrigendum will be published in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only.

Sd/- Commissioner,
City Corporation Belagavi.

DIPR/Belagavi/187/Manipal/2025-26

CHAMUNDESHWARI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CORPORATION LIMITED, MYSORE
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Corporate Office: No.29, Vijayanagar 2nd Stage, Hinkal, Mysore-570017
Company Identity Number [CIN]: U40109KA2004SGC035177
Email: gmhrd@cescmysore.org | **Website:** https://cescmysore.karnataka.gov.in

Dear Consumers,

Redressal of your complaints made easier without any fees and more Consumer friendly.....

- KERC has formulated Regulation known as Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum and Ombudsman) Regulations, 2004 and made amendments to redress complaints for grievances of the electricity consumers of the State of Karnataka.
- CESC, Mysuru has established the following Consumer Grievance Redressal Forums (CGRF) in each Revenue Districts and Corporate Level.

Name of the Revenue Districts, Forum Headquarters and details where Consumers can lodge Complaint/ Grievance, is as below:

Sl. No.	District	Chairman	Member	Member Nominated by KERC	Convener	Forum's Head Quarters
1.	Mysore	**Sri. Sunil Kumar A.A.,** Superintending Engineer (El), CESC, O&M Circle, Jodi Basaveshwara Road, Kuvempunagara, Mysuru. **Mobile No: 9448994733**	**Smt. Anitha S.B.,** Executive Engineer (El), CESC, O&M Division, N.R. Mohalla, Mysuru, **Mobile No: 9448994740**	**Sri. Gangadharaiah, D.S.,** No. 1, 9th Cross, Jnana jyothi Nagara, Ullal Main Road, Bangalore. **Mobile No: 9448217710**	**Smt. Jyothi K.V.,** Assistant Executive Engineer (El)-2, CESC, O&M Circle, Jodi Basaveshwara Road, Kuvempunagara, Mysuru **Mobile No: 9449598550**	**O/o Superintending Engineer (El),** O&M Circle, First Floor, CESC, Jodi Basaveshwara Road, Kuvempunagar, Mysuru-570023
2.	Chamaraja nagara	**Sri. Somashekar M.K.,** Superintending Engineer (El), CESC, O&M Circle, Chamarajanagara- Kodagu **Mobile No: 9449598533**	**Sri. Pradeep T.,** Executive Engineer (El), CESC, O&M Division, Chamarajanagara **Mobile No: 9448994864**	**Sri. Venkatesh C.M.,** Behind Rama Mandira, Shankarapura Badavane, Chamarajanagara **Mobile No: 9886256729**	**Sri. Mahesh N.,** Account Officer(I/A), CESC, O&M Division , Chamarajanagara **Mobile No: 9449598647**	**O/o Executive Engineer (El),** O&M Division, B. Rachaiah Double Road, CESC, Chamarajanagara-571313
3.	Kodagu	**Sri. Somashekar M.K.** Superintending Engineer (El), CESC, O&M Circle, Chamarajanagara- Kodagu. **Mobile No: 9449598533**	**Sri. Ramachandra M.,** Executive Engineer (El), CESC, O&M Division, Madikeri, **Mobile No: 9449598601**	**Sri. P.M. Muthanna,** No.14-9-20, 4th Block, Neharu Lay Out, Near Balamuri Ganapathi Temple, Kushalanagara-571234, **Mobile No: 9845250980**	**Sri. Dilip K.M.,** Assistant Engineer (El) (Tech), O&M Division, CESC, Madikeri **Mobile No:9480810367**	**O/o Executive Engineer (El),** O&M Division, CESC, Sudarshana Circle, Shanthinikethana Building, Madikeri-571201
4.	Mandya	**Sri. Somashekar B.,** Superintending Engineer (El), CESC, O&M Circle, Mandya **Mobile: 9449598633**	**Smt. Anitha Bai S.,** Executive Engineer (El), CESC, O&M Division, Mandya **Mobile: 9448994730**	**Sri. M.R.A. Prakasha** No 1966, 3rd Cross, V.V. Nagara, Kallahalli, Mandya District-571401. **Mobile: 9980654912**	**Smt. Prathibha G.,** Assistant Executive Engineer (El) (Tech), CESC, O&M Circle, Mandya. **Mobile No: 9449598543**	**O/o Superintending Engineer (El),** O&M Circle, Mysore-Bangalore Road, CESC, Mandya-571401
5.	Hassan	**Sri. Gundigeri Krishnappa,** Superintending Engineer (El), CESC, O&M Circle, Hassan. **Mobile No: 9448994933**	**Sri. G.M. Arjun,** Executive Engineer(El), CESC, O&M Division office, Hassan. **Mobile No: 9448994938**	**Sri. Sudheendhra N.,** Bhargavi, Sanskrit Avenue, West of Vidyuth Nagara, Hassan – 573201. **Mobile No: 9242131634**	**Sri. K Shivasundar,** Accounts Officer (Incharge), O&M Circle, CESC, Hassan. **Mobile: 9449598404**	**O/o Superintending Engineer (El),** O&M Circle, CESC, Santepete, B.M. Road, Hassan-573201.

Details of Corporate Level Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum

Sl. No.	Chairman	Member	Member Nominated by KERC	Convener	Prosumer	Forum's Head Quarters
1.	**Smt. Sharanamma S Jangina,** Chief General Manager (Tech), Corporate Office, CESC, Mysuru, **Ph.no. 9448994704**	**Sri Dinesh H.R.,** General Manager (Projects), Corporate Office, CESC, Mysuru, **Mobile No:9448499920**	**Sri.Rangegowda D,** No.4 A/A Block,Vasu Layout, Ramakrishna Nagara, Mysuru **Mobile No: 9449489772**	**Smt. Pruthvi B,** Deputy General Manager (Tech), Corporate Office, CESC, Mysuru. **Mobile No: 9448994708**	Post Vacant	**Corporate Office,** No.29, Vijayanagara 2nd Stage, Hinkal, Mysuru-570017

Any Grievance made by the consumer with regard to supply of electricity other than the following shall be submitted to the convener of the concerned CGRF in the prescribed format

- Unauthorized electricity supply under Section 126 (Misuse of Energy).
- Offences and penalties under Section 135 to 139 (Theft of Electricity) and
- Accident in the distribution supply or use of electricity under Section 161 of the Act (Electrical Accidents).

Procedure for lodging Complaint/ Grievance and its Redressal:

- In the event of a complaint not being addressed satisfactorily (by the authority of the licensee), the complainant shall submit the grievance to the forum and same shall be in writing and in the prescribed format (Form-A).
- No need for consumer to engage advocate to defend his case and no need to pay fee.
- Consumer himself can present before CGRF or through his authorized representative to present his case.
- Complaint will be heard once in 15 days and the decision will be given within 60 days from the date of admission of the complaint.
- Proceedings of the forum will be conducted in Public and the decision will be recorded and communicated to the Complainant in writing.
- The grievance if unresolved at the district level CGRF shall be escalated to the CGRF at corporate level, on the date of exercising such an option by the complainant.
- The CGRF at corporate level shall resolve such grievances with a maximum period of thirty (30) days.

Appeal against the orders of CGRF:

- Any Complainant aggrieved by the orders passed by the CGRF, may make a representation against the Order passed by the CGRF to **Electricity Ombudsman, Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission, No. 16, C-1, Miller Tank Bed Area, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka- 560 052.**
- **E-mail:** ombkar@gmail.com, **Phone:** 080 – 41692617 in the prescribed format (Form-B) within 30 days from the date of receipt of the order of the Forum.

Note: Form-A and Form-B are available on the CESC Website https://cescmysore.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/MYS/KAVITA/138/2025-26

‘Flexibility and realism are the hallmarks of Vietnam’s communists’

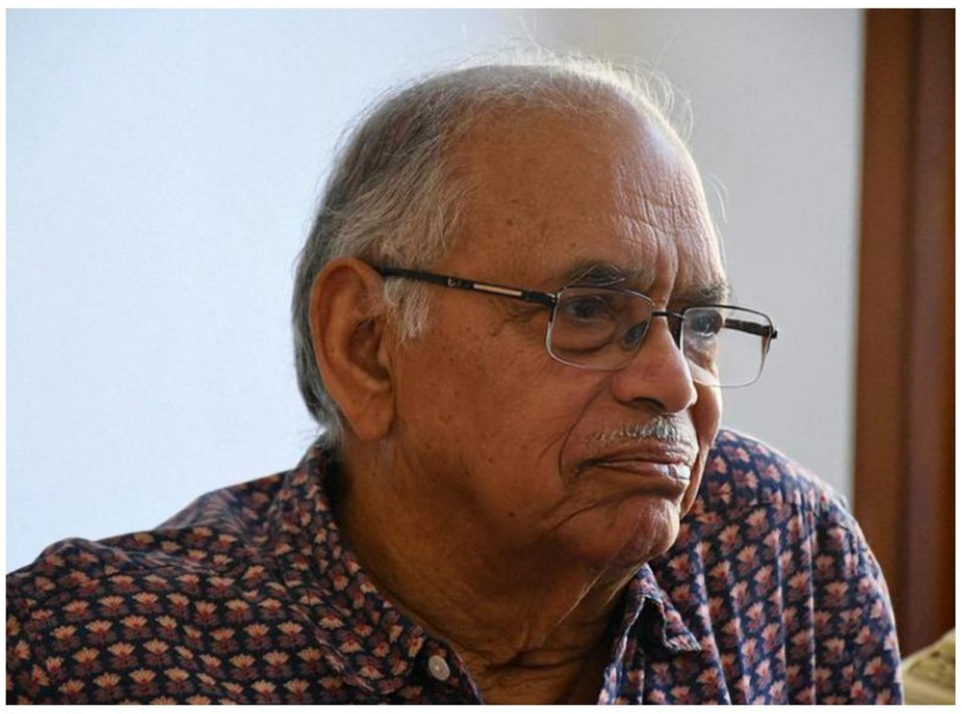
A journalist who reported on the fall of Saigon in 1975 explains Vietnam’s complex role in South East Asia. He talks about the small but mighty country’s relations with China, the U.S. and its role vis-a-vis the conflict in the South China Sea

INTERVIEW

Nayan Chanda

Srinivasan Ramani

Vietnam has a chequered history. The once poor country, made of peasantry, took on the might of America and brought the superpower to its knees. Besides what has come to be known as the Vietnam War, it had to fight a series of wars in order to achieve its aim of being independent and united, finally gaining reunification in 1975. In a conversation, Nayan Chanda, former editor of the *Far Eastern Economic Review*, explains why Vietnam is a key player in South East Asia. Edited excerpts.



Nayan Chanda. B.C. KRISHNA

> Vietnam has a long history of dealing with persistent problems. It has clearly signalled to China that it doesn’t accept Chinese claims that all South China Sea islands are theirs

> Take the legendary story of the Trung sisters, who rode elephants and fought the Chinese and died. There’s a temple in Hanoi, with the statue of these two ladies riding elephants which is worshipped by the people. In fact, when Vietnamese scholar George McTarnun Kahin visited Vietnam during the 1970s and asked to see their religion, he was taken to the Trung sisters’ temple

What is the most striking feature about Vietnam and her people?

What is most striking about Vietnam is the patriotism of the people who are determined to be independent. That pursuit of independence might seem abstract because they have been living under Chinese rule, French rule, and Japanese rule, but they want to live on their own terms. There is a famous song that Vietnamese rebels sang while marching against Chinese rule: “we fight to keep our hair long, we fight to keep our teeth black, the heroic southern country is its own master.” They have a traditional practice of lacquering teeth, keeping their hair long, and are saying, “We are not going to accept the practice imposed by China.”

When Ho Chi Minh appealed to the Vietnamese that they would have to fight to unify the country to win independence from the French, he was speaking to very willing souls. The people understood what he was saying. In some ways, he was like Gandhi – he came from a rather middle aristocrat family, spoke Chinese, and he could have been a sort of junior Mandarin, but he wanted to win independence. And he thought winning independence is to fight the French and learn about the enemy, what the enemy’s strength is. Like Gandhi, he travelled throughout the world with his mission to win independence. People understood that he is a leader who has no other ambition than to win the war. So leadership is one factor, patriotism is another, and they have a long tradition of fighting against foreign invaders. This is unique, because Vietnam was ruled directly by China for 900 years. Even after the Vietnamese finally threw them out, the Chinese periodically came back to re-establish control. The Vietnamese again fought and pushed them out. This continuous battle to win independence is in the Vietnamese DNA.

Take the legendary story of the Trung sisters, who rode elephants and fought the Chinese and died. There’s a temple in Hanoi, with the statue of these two ladies riding elephants which is worshipped by the people. In fact, when Vietnamese scholar George McTarnun Kahin visited Vietnam during the 1970s and asked to see their religion, he was taken to the Trung sisters’ temple. Throughout Vietnam, you can see little woodcut prints of the Trung sisters.

A long history of resistance, a deep sense of nationalism based on culture, language, customs, and literature, is what makes Vietnam really strong.

Ho Chi Minh took the Marxist-Leninist path to fight for independence and to bring the north and south together. In the height of the Cold War, this also meant that the U.S. found a justification to militarily intervene to stop the spread of communism. In your book, ‘Brother Enemy: The War After the War’, you argue that the situation on the ground was far more complicated, and that reunification resulted in more geopolitical intrigue.

Vietnamese nationalism ran smack into other nationalisms at the time – nationalisms of opposition. So when the Vietnamese said they were fighting French colonialism and joining hands with the Khmers and the Lao to fight the French, the Cambodians didn’t accept that.

The Cambodians said they did want independence from the French but didn’t want Vietnamese help. The reason is because in the 19th century, the Vietnamese Nguyen dynasty based in Hue had invaded Cambodia and imposed the Vietnamese language and culture on its people, the same way the Chinese did in Vietnam.

That created a lot of resistance, and the Khmers fought the Vietnamese. Eventually, the French intervened, and the French protectorate of Cambodia basically prevented Cambodia from being taken over by the Vietnamese. Now, Lao nationalism was much weaker because Laos has 40-50 ethnic minority groups. There is not one coherent group like the Khmer or the Vietnamese. So, the nationalism there was much weaker. Vietnamese support was essential to defeat the French.

Laos accepted Vietnam as a big brother and its leadership. When the Vietnam War ended in 1975, the Chinese were concerned because they thought that after the Vietnamese had won against a superpower, they would align with the Soviet Union against them. The Soviet-Chinese relationship had been very bad since 1969, and so the Soviet Union backing Vietnam was an easy way to score points against the Chinese.

But the Vietnamese were balancing the Chinese. The Vietnamese knew that everybody was wooing them because they were the rising power, and they wanted support from economically developed nations. But they did not want to join an alliance with the Soviet Union because the latter had been seeking a security pact for some time. It was not until 1978 that Vietnam realised it would have to intervene in Cambodia, and could not risk a Chinese attack without backing from other countries.

In a way it is a parallel to what Indira Gandhi did with the Soviet military pact before going into the Bangladesh war. When that happened, the Chinese felt it vindicated their position. They said, “We always held that the Vietnamese are puppets of the Russians. Now look at them, you have proven this.” China organised a coalition of non-communist countries, ASEAN countries, and the Khmer Rouge were brought in to fight the Vietnamese. Americans also joined, because though they didn’t like the Khmer Rouge, they didn’t want the Vietnamese taking over anywhere either.

The conflict lasted until the Vietnamese eventually withdrew from Cambodia in 1989. Meanwhile, Mikhail Gorbachev had come to power in the Soviet Union and did not want to get involved in Vietnamese affairs.

The Vietnamese realised that times had changed, and they even signed an agreement with the Chinese at the so-called Chengdu summit in 1990. That summit agreed on a coalition government in Cambodia with Chinese and Vietnamese participation. This compromise follows a pattern seen many times in the past when the Vietnamese were fighting the Chinese. They realised that the Chinese, their neighbours, were too strong, and so they would have to make deals. The Chinese realised that they could not really militarily control Vietnam nor could they hope for the Khmer Rouge to regain power. So the kind of compromise that was made in the past, was made in Chengdu.

The Vietnam-China bonhomie coincided with reform initiatives in both countries. But while their trade relations are intact, irritants remain, and one example is the South China Sea issue. Can you briefly explain how Vietnam is handling the situation?

Vietnam has a long history of dealing with persistent problems. It has clearly signalled to China that it doesn’t accept Chinese claims that all South China Sea islands are theirs. At the same time, Vietnam is also aware that the two countries need each other. Vietnam will not fight China unless it’s pushed.

What is Vietnam’s relationship with the U.S.? What about China-Vietnam ties?

The U.S. had shown enough sophistication until Donald Trump arrived. This is because the Americans realised that the Vietnamese were never going to cooperate with the Chinese for any expansionist agenda. Vietnam’s contribution to maintaining peace and security in the region is unquestionable. But they don’t want to provoke China by publicly denouncing China or publicly announcing “we are allies.” Without declaring an alliance, you can still prepare yourself to counter Chinese influence.

The Vietnamese have been building their bases in the South China Sea and have fortified them. The Chinese don’t like it. So this is again a kind of stand-off. Because the Vietnamese are not going to give up, the Chinese are trying a different, gentler tactic. China has been offering economic assistance to Vietnam and allowing Chinese companies to invest, and not forcing Vietnam to take sides.

So that is why, I think, in some ways, despite tensions, China-Vietnam relations are at its most stable. They understand each other.

You said that before Donald Trump, the Americans were mature in understanding the role of Vietnam in normalisation of relations. Can you expand on that?

Trump not taking part in the reunification celebration is a short-sighted, petty thing for America to do. Especially given the fact that America has cultivated Vietnam since 1995 to develop very good economic and military relationships. The U.S. has given Vietnam naval crafts. Vietnam has opened its ports to American naval ships. All that has happened without making too much noise. This cooperation goes on without too much publicity. America has shown sophistication in handling Vietnam. They have been very careful in nurturing relations, until Mr. Trump.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

“Did you watch the movie last night?”

“Yes, I did. It was off the wall, wasn’t it?”

“Off the wall’? What does it mean?”

“‘Off the wall’ is a slang expression. It means, ‘odd, unusual’. For example, my boss’ sense of humour is really off the wall.”

“Meaning, he has a crazy sense of humour?”

“Yes, that’s right. His sense of humour is unconventional.”

“Can I say, some of the books that I have read are strange. They are really off the wall!”

“You can’t!”

“But why not?”

“Because you don’t read books! Ha! Ha!”

“Very funny.”

“Here’s another example. Many people believe that some of our politicians’ ideas are off the wall.”

“When you have crazy people, you should expect crazy ideas.”

“That’s true. So, are you feeling better today?”

“I’m feeling great. After a good night’s sleep, I feel restive.”

“Restive? What are you impatient about?”

“Impatient? What makes you think I’m impatient?”

“That’s one of the meanings of the word ‘restive’. You see, when you say you feel ‘restive’, it means you are impatient or disobedient because you are bored or because you are not satisfied with the way something is being done. For example, after several months at sea, the sailors became very restive.”

“Can I say, the Principal’s speech made the students restive?”

“Of course, you can. Here’s another example. The scent of the lion made the zebras restive.”

“That’s a good example. Okay, so after a good night’s sleep, I should feel ‘rested’ and not ‘restive’. Am I right?”

“Absolutely! have you ever felt restive in your life?”

“Me? I don’t think I have never felt restive in my life.”

“You can’t say that!”

“Of course, I can! I should know if I have felt restive or…”

“… that’s not what I’m talking about. You cannot say ‘I don’t think I have never felt restive’. You either say, ‘I don’t think I have ever felt restive’ or ‘I have never felt restive’.”

“Yes, I remember now. I cannot use two negatives in the same sentence. Isn’t that the rule?”

“That’s right.”

“So I should either say, ‘I have never played tennis in my life’ or ‘I don’t think I have ever played tennis in my life’. Am I right?”

“But you have played tennis. Remember the time you almost beat Sampras at the French Open?”

“That was one of your crazy dreams. Your dreams are just like you!”

“Like me? What do you mean? ”

“They are really off the wall! Ha! Ha!”

Published in The Hindu on May 28, 1995.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The 2025 Met Gala took place on Monday, May 5. Here is a quiz on the event

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1
Let’s start with an easy one. What was the gala called before?

QUESTION 2
The event is held for the benefit of which museum’s institute?

QUESTION 3
The event is organised by which fashion magazine?

QUESTION 4
Who established the Met Gala? In which year was it established?

QUESTION 5
This term means ‘the creation of exclusive custom-fitted high-end fashion design’. Name the term.

QUESTION 6
In Met Gala 2025, which Bollywood superstar made a debut?

Visual question:
Identify this person who is the editor-in-chief of a fashion magazine (answer to Q3), and is the co-chair of the event. AFP

Questions and Answers to the previous day’s daily quiz: 1. Name the cryptographic system in wide use today that secures data by using a pair of keys. **Ans: Public-key (or asymmetric) cryptography**
2. Name the concept in cryptography that generates new keys based on existing ones and uses them to unlock data. **Ans: Perfect forward secrecy**
3. The ___ algorithm is a famous public-key cryptosystem published in 1977. **Ans: RSA**
4. A tool like the QR code can be used to prevent a type of encryption attack called ___ __ ___ _____. **Ans: Man in the middle**
5. ____-_____ cryptography refers to algorithms like CRYSTALS-Kyber, designed to be secure against attacks from an advanced device many scientists are working on today. **Ans: Post-quantum**
Visual: Name this man. **Ans: Claude Shannon**
Early Birds: Nobody got all the correct answers

Word of the day

Vogue:
the popular taste at a given time; a current state of general acceptance and use

Synonyms: style, trend

Usage: *Realistic films are all the vogue right now.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/voguepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /vəʊg/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject ‘Text & Context’

Civil defence drills to be organised in five districts

Bengaluru, Mallapura, and Shaktinagara have been included in Category II civil defence towns

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As part of the nationwide civil defence drill - Operation Abhyas - to prepare civilians and officials to react to potential threats, amidst raising tension with Pakistan following the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, air raid warnings and reaction drills, will be conducted in Bengaluru, Karwar, Raichur, Mysuru and Mandya districts in the State through the next week.

In a statement issued on Tuesday evening, Prashanth Kumar Thakur, Director-General of Police and Director, Civil Defence, Karnataka said the Ministry of Home Affairs had directed States to conduct drills in 244 districts identified as vulnerable areas, categorising them into Category I, Category II and Category III, based on their vulnerability assessment. "In Karnataka, Mallapura (Karwar), Shaktinagara (Raichur) and Bengaluru have been included in Category II civil defence towns," the statement said.

A civil defence siren being placed on top of a building of the Karnataka State Fire and Emergency Services at Banashankari in Bengaluru. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Scenarios to be explored in civil defence drills

- **Incoming air raids:** Activation of sirens, action to be taken and blackout measures
- **Fire in a building:** Search and rescue, and casualty evacuation from the building
- Setting up of a temporary hospital
- Evacuation of civilians from endangered areas to bunkers in demilitarised zones

Power stations

Speaking to mediapersons, Mr. Thakur said that while Bengaluru was considered a highly sensitive zone as it was a metro city and has several defence and vital establishments of national and international interest, Mallapura in Karwar has the Kaiga Atomic Power Station and Shaktinagara has Raichur Thermal Power Station. The first such drill will be held at Civil Defence Headquarters, Ulsoor, Bengaluru, on Wednesday. All members of Parliament from the city are expected to participate in the drill. In preparation, Civil Defence personnel audited all the 35 air-raid sirens, mostly installed at prominent fire and police stations in Bengaluru on Tuesday, and found that three were malfunctioning. "These sirens can be heard in a radius of 3 km. They indicate high alert and a possible impending air raid that should prompt people to take safe shelter," a senior official said. These drills are a simulated emergency exercise designed to prepare civilians and officials to take safety measures in real time. In his statement, Mr. Thakur said these drills will include activation of sirens, action to be taken and blackout measures for an incoming air raid and other scenarios include fire in a building, search and rescue, casualty evacuation from the building, setting up of temporary hospitals and evacuation of civilians from endangered areas to bunkers in demilitarised zones.

Similar exercises will be taken up in Uttara Kannada, Raichur, Mysuru and Mandya districts, dates for which will be decided this week, Mr. Thakur said.

Tabletop exercise at KIA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In response to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) directive to the States to conduct mock drills, a tabletop exercise will be conducted at Kempegowda International Airport on Thursday.

Airport sources told *The Hindu* that the multi-agency mock drill would be conducted at the airport involving Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) that is in charge of the airport security in coordination with Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) teams.

"During the tabletop exercise, around 67 members of the Quick Reaction Team would be activated. CISF and ARFF teams with their firefighting systems will also take part in the exercise to evaluate the response and readiness of all the stakeholders," an airport source said.

Sources added that a list of do's and don'ts would be checked. A mock evacuation of a building would also be simulated during the drill.

KIA, which is the third busiest airport in the country having handled 41 million passengers in the the financial year 2024-25, is no stranger to mock drills having in the past conducted them on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) emergencies and full-scale aircraft emergency exercises in the past.

Number of CCTV cameras geotagged with city police database crosses 5 lakh

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a significant milestone, the Bengaluru City Police have successfully geotagged 5.3 lakh CCTV cameras across the city. This is the first time, the number of geotagged cameras have crossed the five lakh mark in the city, City Police Commissioner B. Dayananda said, adding these cameras will act as the eyes and ears of the police to monitor law and order.

Mr. Dayananda, addressing a press conference, said that as on April 30 this year, a total of 5,35,815 cameras were geotagged to the Mobile Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (MCCTNS) to help crime prevention and detection.

A CCTV camera installed in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

As per the data, from January 1, 2024, to April 30, 2025, 3.03 lakh new cameras were geotagged with MCCTNS. Before that, 2.32 lakh CCTV cameras were part of the database. These cameras include public and private cameras which are facing the roads, he said. As per the rules, every camera which faces roads should be linked to the MCCTNS system as per the Karnataka Public Safety (Measures) Enforcement Act, 2017.

The CCTV cameras linked to MCCTNS help in investigations and record facts crucial for investigations. When a crime occurs, investigators can access the MCCTNS database through the dedicated app and get the list of CCTV cameras installed in a specific area to avail footage from them, an officer said.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, MAY. 07	
RISE	05:57 SET 18:36
RISE	14:34 SET 02:25
THURSDAY, MAY. 08	
RISE	05:56 SET 18:36
RISE	15:20 SET 03:00
FRIDAY, MAY. 09	
RISE	05:56 SET 18:36
RISE	16:04 SET 03:33

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	35	26
Mysuru	34	21
Bengaluru	33	22

Bengaluru Today
34°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower with gusty winds may occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C The weather will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
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IN THE COURT OF THE IV ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS AT BANGALORE. CCH-21
O.S. 26602/2022

Between: 1. Sri Akshaya G. Vaidya and others
All are R/at Sri Rama Paradise, Bearing Khatha No. 31/30-A, V.P. Khata No. 74/23/1, Kaneshmari No. 23/1, New Corporation No. 23/1/31/30-A, Old Municipal No. 159/23/1/31/30A, New Municipal No. 384/23/1/31/30/A, Vaddarapalya Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Thaluku - 560061. **... Plaintiffs**

:: AND ::

Smt. Sakamma and Others **... Defendants**

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT NO. 5

5. Sri Balasubramanya S/o Late M. Shiva Swamy, Aged about 75 years, Residing at No. 152, Parvathi Nivasa, 6th Main Road, 4th Block, Jayanagara, Bangalore - 560 011 **... Defendant**

Whereas the above named Plaintiffs have filed the case against you in O.S. 26602/2022 (CCH-21) Seeking the judgement and decree, declaration & injunction in respect of the schedule property mentioned below and so you are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble IV Additional City Civil Court may hall unit at Bengaluru on 27/06/2025 at 11.00 A.M. either in person or through the pleader to answer regarding the suit filing which the above suit will be hard in your absence and detained exparte.

SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY: Apartment called "Siri Ram Paradise", (SIRI RAM PARADISE) (1) Flat No. 201 in the First Floor (2) Flat No. 203 in the First Floor, (3) Flat No. 204 in the First Floor, (4) Flat No. 301 in the Second Floor, (5) flat No. 302 in the Second Floor, (6) Flat No. 304 in the Second Floor, (7) Flat No. 401 in the Third Floor, (8) Flat No. 403 in the Third Floor, (9) Flat No. 404 in the Third Floor, (10) Flat No. 104 in the Ground Floor, The above flats are constructed on the property Bearing katha No. 31/30A, V.P. Katha No. 74/23/1, Khanesmari Number 23/1, New Corporation No. 23/1/31/30A, old Municipal No. 159/23/1/31/30A, New Municipal No. 384/23/1/31/30/A, Vaddarapalya Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, measuring East to West 50 feet's and North to South 90 feet's in total measuring 4500 Sq. Feet's.

SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of the Property Bearing katha No. 31/30-A, V.P. Katha No. 74/23/1, Khanesmari Number 23/1, New Corporation No. 23/1/31/30A, Old Municipal No. 159/23/1/31/30A, New Municipal No. 384/23/1/31/30/A, Vaddarapalya Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, measuring East to West 50 feet's and North to South 90 feet's in total measuring 4500 Sq. Feet's and Bounded on the **East by:** Property of Muddugalappa, **West by:** Western portion of the same property, **North by:** Property of Kunnappa and **South by:** Government Road.

Given under my hand and seal of this Hon'ble Court on 02.05.2025.

By Order of the Court, **Sd/- Deputy Register**
City Civil Court, Mayo Hall Unit, Bengaluru

Council for Plaintiff
N.M.R. Associates, **Sd/- N. Raghu Babu**, Advocate, C.C.C., Mayo Hall, #113/2, 2nd Floor, C.M. Mansion, Hospital Road, Bengaluru. Mob: 9980178153.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. 10/MYS/2025 of 29-04-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Sl.	Name of the Work	Approx. Value
1	Birur - Karajgi Section : Provision of safety fencing with W-beam metal barriers for length of 40.650 kms in connection with Increasing Sectional speed from 110 kmph to 130 kmph.	Rs. 16,74,74,569/-
2	Desilting of RUB, Cleaning of drains, dewatering of rain water accumulated and clearing of vegetations on the approaches and patch repairs woks to road etc of RUBs in Birur - Chikjajur and Chikjajur - Rayadurg section in Assistant Divisional Engineer / CTA Sub Division.	Rs. 69,93,174/-
3	Construction of overhead tank of capacity 2.50 lakh liters at Birur Station. (Leftover works)	Rs. 43,55,755/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Up to 11:00 Hrs on 22-05-2025
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Engineer / Co-ordination
PUB/81/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Mysuru**
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that, my clients **Sri.R.Doraiswamy** S/o Sri.Ranganadhan and **Smt.Ashwini** W/o. Sri.R.Doraiswamy, Both are R/at No.48, 2nd Floor, Om Shakthi Nilayam, Narayanappa Garden Road, Opp. Diamond District, Kodihalli, HAL 2nd Stage, Bengaluru – 560008, claims that, they are the absolute joint owners of Site No.88/1, Assessment No.5/1, Property No.88/1 Janjaru No.1804, situated at Rayasandra Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, presently under the limits of Shanthipura Village Panchayath, measuring 40 x 15 feet totally 600 Square feet and bounded on the: East by : Site No.93, West by : Road, North by : Site No.89, South by : Site No.87, purchased from Smt.Amuda. My clients claimed that, after registration of the sale deed into their favour, while getting the photocopies of the documents, they have lost/misplaced the original registered **Sale Deed favouring Smt.Amuda, dated 16.06.2010, registered as Doc.No.SRJ-1-00896/2010-11** of Book-1, stored in CD No.SRJD38, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Sarjapura, Anekal Taluk, related to the above said property, which is not yet traced.

If any person/s found the sale deed dated 16.06.2010, Doc.No.SRJ-1-00896/2010-11 or has any information to the contrary or claimed to prove that the above referred Sale Deed is lodged with them/some other person in connection with a legal transaction, may kindly contact/file in writing the information or their objections or claims with all supporting documentary evidence within **15 days** from the date of publication of this notice to the below address. Any claims lodged thereafter will not be entertained by my Client.

Vijayakumar,
Advocate & Legal Consultant,
No.49, 1st Floor, Opp. 12th Cross,
Cubbonpet Main Road, Bangalore-560002
Mob: 91 98806 31978 / 8951631978

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Salem Division - Office of the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer
Electric Loco Shed, Erode
E-Tender Notice
Online tender are invited for the following work:

Tender No	**SA_A_RS_ED_OT_25_26_1, Dated: 03.05.2025**
Description of Work	Work Contract for Installation, Testing and Commissioning of roof mounted Cab ACs on electric locomotives available at Electric Loco Shed, Southern Railway, Salem Division, Erode.

All details regarding the tender are available at **https://www.ireps.gov.in**
Sr.DEE/RS/ED.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 03UBL 2025-26
Dated : 29-04-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Signalling works in connection with Shifting of 2 cross over for RD-7 & 8 of Mangalampeta yard towards Vasco da Gama end to accommodate full length rake on RD-8A (Harbor end).	Rs. 70,58,885.27

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs on 13-05-2025
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Hubballi
PUB/87/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. HE-TRD-2025-26-OT-03
Dated : 30-05-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Provision of additional circuit breaker in existing TSS/ switching stations for major goods / sidings / branch lines for isolation purpose without effecting mainline operations in Hubballi Division.	Rs. 2,45,57,023/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs on 22-05-2025
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/ Traction Distribution, Hubballi
PUB/88/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NATIONAL HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
(Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India)

Public Notice
Commencement of tolling operations at Staggered Fee Plaza Km. 288+400 (LHS) and Km 288.700 (RHS), Attigulipura Village on NH-948 (Old NH-209)

The public are hereby informed that pursuant to Govt. of India Gazette Notification S.O No.5247 (E) dated 05.12.2024 and approval of Competent Authority, NHAI vide letter dated 24.03.2025, the User fee rates at Attigulipura Fee Plaza at Km. 288+400 in LHS and design chainage Km 288.700 in RHS, w.e.f **09.05.2025 (08:00 Hrs)** on 2/4 lane National Highway from BRT Tiger Reserve Boundary to Bangalore South section Border to Bangalore section of NH-948 (old NH-209).

The User Fee Rates for FY 2025-26 to be levied w.e.f **09.05.2025 (08:00 Hrs)** at Fee Plaza at Attigulipura Fee Plaza Km 288+400 in LHS and design chainage Km 288.700 in RHS of NH-209 (New NH-948) Attigulipura Village, Chamarajanagara district in the State of Karnataka is as below:-

Amount in Rs.

Attigulipura Fee Plaza, NH-948 (Old NH-209)
USER FEE RATES- FY 2025-26

Category	Fee for single journey	Fee for return Journey within a day	Fee for monthly pass for 50 single journeys in a month	Fee for commercial vehicles registered within the district of Plaza
Car/Jeep/Van/LMV	35	50	1130	15
LCV/LGV/Mini Bus	55	80	1825	25
Truck/Bus (2 Axle)	115	170	3830	55
3 Axle Commercial Vehicle	125	190	4175	65
Heavy Construction Machinery/Earth Moving Equipment or Multi Axle Vehicle (MAV) (4-6 Axles)	180	270	6005	90
Oversized vehicles (7 or more axle)	220	330	7310	110

Note:
1. **All Amounts are in Rupees.**
2. **The rates published above are for the year FY 2025-26 and shall be revised w.e.f 01.04.2026 which is annual rate revision for all the User Fee Plazas across the country as per Rule 5 of the NH Fee Rule 2008 and its amendments.**

3. The following concessions are available as per Gazette Notification at above Toll Plaza:
   a. No User Fee shall be levied for the use of this section of National Highway from two-wheeler, three-wheeler and tractors.
   b. For Return journey within 24 hours from time of payment for all categories of vehicles the amount payable is one-half times the fee for one way journey (Discount 25%).
   c. For 50 Single journey in a month from date of payment for all categories of vehicles the Fee payable is Two-third of amount of the fee payable for fifty single journeys (Discount 33%).
   d. A person who owns a mechanical vehicle registered for non-commercial purposes and resides within a distance of twenty kilometers from the fee plaza can avail a Monthly Pass for Rs.350 (Rupees Three Hundred and Fifty Only per month) for the year 2025-26 and is subject to revision every year as per the provisions of NH Fee Rule 2008 and its amendments thereof.
   e. Fee for commercial vehicle (excluding vehicles plying under National permit) registered in the district where the fee plaza falls shall be 50% of the specified rate for that category of vehicle
4. The list of exempted vehicles is as given in the amendment to NH Fee Rules.
5. A mechanical vehicle which is loaded in excess of permissible load specified for its category under sub-rule (2) of rule 4, shall not be permitted to use the National Highway or crossing the toll plaza until the excess load has been removed from such mechanical vehicle. The driver or owner or a person in charge of a mechanical vehicle shall be liable to pay fee, for entering the overloaded vehicle on the national highway to the toll collecting agency, equal to ten times of the fee applicable to such category of mechanical vehicles under sub-rule (2) of rule 4.
6. The Toll notification for this Plaza S.O No.5247 (E) dated 05.12.2024 has been published in Gazette of India.
7. For any complaints, emergency, suggestion and feedback please contact NHAI help line number 1033 or contact Office of the Project Director, No. 609, Sri Chamundeswari Railway Layout, Shyadanahalli, Mysuru Taluk & Dist . Pin No. 570003.

BUILDING A NATION, NOT JUST ROADS

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NATIONAL HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
(Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India)

Public Notice
Commencement of tolling operations at Fee Plaza User Fee rates at Toll Plaza at Km.448.900, Somanahalli Village on NH-948 (Old NH-209)

The public are hereby informed that pursuant to Govt. of India Gazette Notification S.O No.5247 (E) dated 05.12.2024 and approval of Competent Authority, NHAI vide letter dated 24.03.2025, the User fee rates at Somanahalli Fee Plaza at Km. 448.900, w.e.f **09.05.2025 (08:00 Hrs)** for the use 2/4 lane National Highway fromBRT Tiger Reserve Boundary to Bangalore South section Border to Bangalore section of NH-948 (old NH-209).

The User Fee Rates for FY 2025-26 to be levied w.e.f **09.05.2025 (08:00 Hrs)** at Somanahalli Fee Plaza Km 448.900 of NH-209 (New NH-948) Somanahalli Village, Bangalore south district in the State of Karnataka is as below:-

Amount in Rs.

Somanahalli Fee Plaza, NH-948 (Old NH-209)
USER FEE RATES- FY 2025-26

Category	Fee for single journey	Fee for return Journey within a day	Fee for monthly pass for 50 single journeys in a month	Fee for commercial vehicles registered within the district of Plaza
Car/Jeep/Van/LMV	85	130	2855	45
LCV/LGV/Mini Bus	140	205	4610	70
Truck/Bus (2 Axle)	290	435	9660	145
3 Axle Commercial Vehicle	315	475	10540	160
Heavy Construction Machinery/ Earth Moving Equipment or Multi Axle Vehicle (MAV) (4-6 Axles)	455	680	15150	225
Oversized vehicles (7 or more axle)	555	830	18440	275

Note:
1. **All Amounts are in Rupees.**
2. **The rates published above are for the year FY 2025-26 and shall be revised w.e.f 01.04.2026 which is annual rate revision for all the User Fee Plazas across the country as per Rule 5 of the NH Fee Rule 2008 and its amendments.**

3. The following concessions are available as per Gazette Notification at above Toll Plaza:
   a. No User Fee shall be levied for the use of this section of National Highway from two-wheeler, three-wheeler and tractors.
   b. For Return journey within 24 hours from time of payment for all categories of vehicles the amount payable is one-half times the fee for one way journey (Discount 25%).
   c. For 50 Single journey in a month from date of payment for all categories of vehicles the Fee payable is Two-third of amount of the fee payable for fifty single journeys (Discount 33%).
   d. A person who owns a mechanical vehicle registered for non-commercial purposes and resides within a distance of twenty kilometers from the fee plaza can avail a Monthly Pass for Rs.350 (Rupees Three Hundred and Fifty Only per month) for the year 2025-26 and is subject to revision every year as per the provisions of NH Fee Rule 2008 and its amendments thereof.
   e. Fee for commercial vehicle (excluding vehicles plying under National permit) registered in the district where the fee plaza falls shall be 50% of the specified rate for that category of vehicle
4. The list of exempted vehicles is as given in the amendment to NH Fee Rules.
5. A mechanical vehicle which is loaded in excess of permissible load specified for its category under sub-rule (2) of rule 4, shall not be permitted to use the National Highway or crossing the toll plaza until the excess load has been removed from such mechanical vehicle. The driver or owner or a person in charge of a mechanical vehicle shall be liable to pay fee, for entering the overloaded vehicle on the national highway to the toll collecting agency, equal to ten times of the fee applicable to such category of mechanical vehicles under sub-rule (2) of rule 4.
6. The Toll notification for this Plaza S.O No.5247 (E) dated 05.12.2024 has been published in Gazette of India.
7. For any complaints, emergency, suggestion and feedback please contact NHAI help line number 1033 or contact Office of the Project Director, No. 609, Sri Chamundeswari Railway Layout, Shyadanahalli, Mysuru Taluk & Dist . Pin No. 570003.

BUILDING A NATION, NOT JUST ROADS

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SEARCH COMMITTEE NOTIFICATION
APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHANCELLOR

The Government of Tamil Nadu vide (i) G.O. (D) No. 247 Higher Education (H2) Department dated 20.09.2022 and (ii) G.O. (D) No. 86 Higher Education (H2) Department dated 25.04.2025 has constituted a Search Committee to recommend a panel of three names to the Government for appointment of the Vice-Chancellor, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore.

The Search Committee invites applications for the post of Vice-Chancellor, Bharathiar University, from distinguished academicians with highest level of competence, integrity, moral and institutional commitment and possessing the educational qualifications and experience as notified in The Bharathiar University Act, 1981 (Tamil Nadu Act No. 1 of 1982) and vide G.O. Ms. No. 187, Higher Education (K-2) dated 14th July 2017, copy of which is available in the Bharathiar University Website **https://b-u.ac.in**

Interested candidates possessing the qualifications and experience may download the prescribed application format from the website of Bharathiar University. The filled in application shall be sent (only in the prescribed format), by e-mail and one hard copy with documents to prove the eligibility and academic credentials, by post duly superscribing the envelope "Application for the post of the Vice-Chancellor, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore" so as to reach the following address before **05.00 p.m. on 8th June 2025**.

Dr. R. Jaganathan
Nodal Officer
Search Committee for Selection of Vice-Chancellor, Bharathiar University
Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education (TANSCHE)
Lady Willingdon College Campus
Kamarajar Salai, Triplicane, Chennai - 600005
e-mail: nodalofficer.bharathiaruniv@gmail.com

Applications received after publication of the notification in the website of Bharathiar University / newspaper alone will be considered. Applications received after the closing date will not be considered on any account.

DIPR/450/DIS/2025 **Registrar i/c**

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Verdict a crushing blow to Reddy's hopes

CBI court judgment in the illegal mining case marks a potentially decisive moment in the turbulent political journey of the BJP leader; this conviction could very well be the final chapter in a saga marked by audacious comebacks and dramatic downfalls

Kumar Buradikatti
KALABURAGI

A file photo of the Obulapuram mines in Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh.

In a major blow to his hopes of political revival, former Minister and mining baron Gali Janardhana Reddy has been sentenced to seven years in prison by a CBI special court in Hyderabad in connection with the Obulapuram illegal mining case – one of several that have long shadowed his career. The judgment marks a potentially decisive moment in the turbulent political journey of one of Karnataka's most controversial figures. For a man who once wielded kingmaker status within the State BJP, this conviction could very well be the final chapter in a saga marked by audacious comebacks and dramatic downfalls.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Nara Bharath Reddy, Ballari City MLA, termed the court verdict as "divine justice" and said, "Janardhana Reddy tried to carve out parts of Karnataka's territories in Ballari district to project them as belonging to neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, solely to serve his illegal mining interests. I see the verdict by the CBI special court as divine justice," Mr. Bharat Reddy told *The Hindu*.

S.R. Hiremath, a prominent activist known for his relentless crusade against the illegal mining mafia in Karnataka, hailed the verdict as a significant milestone.

"Janardhana Reddy was such a powerful figure in the mining industry that he attempted to influence the judiciary to secure favourable judgments through bribery. In such a context, the CBI court's decision to convict and sentence him to seven years in prison is historic. I hope that the other pending cases against him in various courts and tribunals also reach their logical conclusions," he said.

Mr. Hiremath also urged the BJP's national leadership, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to take a stand and ensure that the tainted MLA is removed from the Karnataka Assembly.

Tapal Ganesh, a Ballari-based miner and long-time critic of Janardhana Reddy's mining operations, echoed the sentiment. "Janardhana Reddy obtained a mining permit from Andhra Pradesh but carried out operations in Karnataka's Ballari district along the inter-State border. Using the A.P. permit, he illegally extracted 20 to 30 lakh tonnes of iron ore. The CBI court's judgment is commendable," Mr. Ganesh said.

He further alleged that the Congress-led Karnataka government had made little effort to bring Janardhana Reddy to justice in other related cases. "The inter-State border survey is unscientific, and officials, acting under Janardhana Reddy's influence, are doing nothing to rectify it," he added.

In his chequered political career, after being sidelined within the party, Janardhana Reddy launched his own outfit, the Kalyana Rajya Pragathi Paksha (KRPP), ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections. Although he managed to win the Gangavati seat himself, the experiment largely failed. He remained KRPP's lone victor, while even his wife, Lakshmi Aruna, suffered a decisive defeat in Ballari City at the hands of Mr. Bharath Reddy.

Janardhana Reddy then returned to the BJP and continued his determined efforts to revive his influence.

Having spent more than 13 years in exile from Ballari owing to court-imposed restrictions, he finally received relief from the Supreme Court just ahead of the Sandur byelection last year.

He wasted no time in taking charge of the BJP's campaign, in a bid to re-establish his regional dominance. The byelection was seen as a litmus test of his residual political capital.

However, the results did not go in Janardhana Reddy's favour. The BJP lost the Sandur seat to the Congress, and in the aftermath, he reportedly attempted to shift blame onto his longtime ally and close aide B. Sriramulu, a prominent BJP leader and key figure from the Naik (Beda) community. The fallout strained one of the most influential alliances in Ballari politics, further weakening Janardhana Reddy's revival strategy and isolating him.

Tuesday's CBI court verdict now appears to be a decisive blow. The sentence is likely to remove Janardhana Reddy from electoral politics for the near future and dismantle the carefully constructed narrative of a political comeback. Even if he appeals and obtains a stay, the conviction severely dents his momentum by rekindling public memory of the mining scams, corruption, and cronyism that have plagued his image.

Three minor Pakistani nationals move HC for permission to stay in Mysuru till May 15

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Tuesday (May 6, 2025) ordered issue of notice to the Centre and State governments on a petition filed by three minor Pakistani nationals seeking directions to authorities to allow them to stay in Mysuru till May 15 and not to take any coercive action against them till then as they would be leaving India after attending a marriage ceremony to be held on May 12.

A vacation bench of Justice M.G. Uma passed the order on the petitions filed by Bibi Yamina (8), Muhammad Mudassir (4) and Muhammad Yusaf (3), all permanent residents of Balochistan, Pakistan. The petitioners are represented by their Indian mother, Ramsha Jahan, a native of Mysuru who has been residing with her husband, Muhammed Farooq, a Pakistani national, following their marriage in 2015.

Travelled with mother

The minor children, along with their mother, had come to Mysuru on January 4, 2025, on a visa valid upto February 17, 2025. Their visa was later extended till June 18, 2025.

It has been stated in the petition that the petitioners along with their mother reached Attari boarder on April 28 as all Pakistani nationals were asked to leave India by April 30 in view of terror attack on tourists in Pahalgam. However, as their father did not turn up to receive them at the boarder and Pakistan had closed its border even for its own citizen, the petitioner-children returned to Mysuru.

Subsequently, the petitioner's mother wrote to the authorities through the Mysore City Police Commissioner to extend visa of the children till May 15, by which time they would leave India following the marriage of their aunt scheduled to be held in Mysuru on May 11/12, for which they had originally come to India from Pakistan.

Coercive action

It has been pointed out in the petition that the Mysuru city police are warning them of taking coercive action if they do not leave India immediately. Further hearing on the petition has been adjourned till May 8.

Priyank Kharge slams BJP's stand on anti-communal task force

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj and IT/BT Priyank Kharge on Tuesday hit out at the Opposition BJP over its criticism of the State government's proposed anti-communal task force and said that the party was promoting communal polarisation in the State.

Mr. Kharge blamed the BJP for the alleged revenge killings in the coastal districts of the State and blamed the saffron party for the deaths of youth belonging to the poor and backward communities "The youth in the coastal belt are caught in this web of communal politics owing to the influence of the BJP," he argued.

Home Minister G. Parameshwara announced recently that the government has decided to set up an anti-communal task force in the wake of communal incidents in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts.

"We will establish an anti-communal force similar to anti-naxal task force," he had announced.

Mr. Kharge said the government would not tolerate any kind of communal forces spoiling peace and harmony in the State, especially in the coastal region.

The BJP leaders have criticised the anti-communal task force and have alleged that the Congress government was seeking a "cover job" by branding the entire region as communal.

The developments followed the murder of 30-year-old Suhas Shetty, an accused in two murder cases, at Bajpe on May 1.

HC fiat to dept. on preventing electrocution of elephants

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has directed the Forest Department to identify and map the risk areas where there is a possibility of mishaps on account of sagging high-tension power lines and illegal electrical fences within the elephant habitats and fringe areas across the State.

Also, the court said the forest authorities should act in coordination with the Energy Department to check the sagging electrical lines and ensure that proper maintenance is done to see that they remain in adequate height for the safety of the elephants.

Area-wise committees

The Chief Conservator of Forests has been directed to form area-wise investigating committees for different forest circles to identify the risk areas periodically.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice N.V. Anjaria and Justice M.I. Arun issued these directions among a series of other directions while disposing of a PIL petition, which the court had initiated *suo motu* in June 2024 by taking cognisance of the unnatural death of 38-year-old Dasara elephant Ashwathama, and the electrocution of elephants in Chikkamgaluru and other areas, based on newspaper reports.

The Bench also said that an effective mechanism should be evolved to check, prevent, and destroy illegal electrical fences which the farmers put up for their agricultural fields located near the forestland to prevent the elephants from entering into their fields.

Meanwhile, the Bench said that illegal electrical fences should be replaced by scientific and protective barricades in such areas where farmers grow their crops or where there are residential colonies that are situated close to the elephant corridors.

The norms for erecting electrical cables and telecommunication towers should be scrupulously observed, the Bench said while pointing out that the National Board for Wildlife guidelines specify that the minimum clearance height of power lines should be 20 ft in gentle terrain and 30 ft in steeper areas. Underground cabling should be promoted in the eco-sensitive zones, the Bench said.

Construct overpasses

The Bench emphasised that overpasses at the places desired should be constructed to help mitigate the accidents to the elephants and safeguard their movements.

The authorities, the Bench said, should use advanced technical inventions, including e-surveillance system which is stated to be a pilot project undertaken in the Nagarahole Tiger Reserve by using artificial intelligence software and CCTV cameras, which provide alerts about movements of wildlife and human beings, and such systems should be extended to all the wildlife areas and human habitat areas, wherever necessary.

The Bench also said that the liability on the officers and employees of the Forest Department for their negligence and dereliction of duty should be fixed wherever, it is found that there is an element of human negligence which causes the death of elephants.

Caste census: 'Create awareness on differences in intentions of PM, CM'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Alleging that the intentions of the caste census report of the Siddaramaiah-led government and the one planned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi were "entirely different", the BJP on Tuesday called upon its workers to create public awareness in this regard.

'Social justice'

"While the Prime Minister has announced caste census to provide social justice and bring about equality by providing strength to the downtrodden sections, Mr. Siddaramaiah is using the caste census report for his selfish political gains by trying to create a gulf between different communities," alleged BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra.

Addressing a meeting of OBC leaders convened by the party in Bengaluru, Mr. Vijayendra said if the intentions of Mr. Siddaramaiah were to provide social justice to the oppressed sections through caste census, then he would not have waited for 10 years after conducting the census to talk about its implementation.

While Mr. Siddaramaiah is only talking about implementing caste census report for the last 10 years, other States have implemented it within a year, he maintained.

"There is no guarantee that the caste census report would be implemented soon by Mr. Siddaramaiah though he is talking about it," Mr. Vijayendra remarked.

"Unlike Mr. Siddaramaiah, who created a fanfare about caste census without taking it to logical end, Mr. Modi has announced the decision to take up caste census silently," he maintained.

Office of the Superintendent Engineer and Project Manager WCDC, Karauli

No. :- 216 Date :- 02/05/2025

NOTICE INVITING BID
NIB No. : 05/2025-26

Bids for Talai, MPT, Percolation tank, ECD Construction work Project MJSA 2.0 Phase1 Block - Shri Mahaveerji, Hindaun & Sapotra of estimated value INR 139.41 Lacs [03 Package] are invited from interested bidders up to 06.00 PM, 11/05/2025, Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal **(https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in or https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in/)** of the state, departmental website. **NIB CODE :- WSC2526A0090,**
UBN No. :- WSC2526WSRC00175 To WSC2526WSRC00177

Raj.Samwad/C/25/1828 Superintending Engineer and Project Manager

(An Autonomous Institute of Goverment of Karnataka)
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE, BENGALURU

No. SABVMCRI/E-TENDER/TURP/32/2024-25 CALL-3 Dated: 06.05.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

e-Tenders is invited from interested eligible firms in accordance with KTPP Act for supply and installation of TURP SET for Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College and Research Institute, Bengaluru.

(1) The starting date for downloading Tenders: 06.05.2025 onwards. (2) The last date for clarifications of Tenders: 09.05.2025, upto 5.30 P M (3) The last date for uploading Tenders: 15.05.2025, upto 5.30 P M. (4) Opening of Technical Bid: 17.05.2025, at 10.30 A.M.

For more details pertaining this tender, contact the Director and Dean / Assistant Administrator of the Institute during Office Hours.

DIPR/CP/515/CCL/2025-26 Sd/- Director and Dean, SABVMCRI Bengaluru

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Time: 6.00 P.M - 9.00 P.M

Date: 10, 11 & 17, 18th May 25 (4 Days Course)

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THE HINDU

DIRECTORATE OF TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
3rd Floor, CMDA Complex, E&C Market Road Koyambedu, Chennai – 600107

Press Advertisement No: File No: 10563/2023/TCP5 Date: 07.05.2025
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of the Work	Development of GIS-based Software Application for Automated Detection and Guided Action against Unauthorised Developments and Encroachments for Directorate of Town and Country Planning
EMD	INR
Preparation of Institutional strengthening Assessment and Action plan for DTCP & UDA's.	Rs. 4,00,000/-
Tender Documents available on website	www.tntenders.gov.in @ 14:00 hrs (IST) on 09.05.2025
Start date for submission of tender	10:00 hrs (IST) on 19.05.2025
Last date and time for receipt of online bids	09.06.2025 @ 14.00 hrs. IST
Bid Opening Date	10.06.2025 @ 16.00 hrs. IST
Name and Address of the office Inviting Tender	The Director, Town and Country Planning Department, 3rd Floor, CMDA Complex, E&C Market Road Koyambedu, Chennai – 600107

Further details can be seen on the website www.tntenders.gov.in
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PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
(www.kpwd.gov.in)
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Telephone No. 080-22133370, Fax No. 080-22133365
Email ID: eepwdbngdn@yahoo.com
E-Portal : https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Corrigendum/ Addendum Notification
No: 02-1/2025-26 Dated: 03.05.2025::

With reference to this office Tender Notification No.: No: 02/2025-26 Dated: 15.04.2025 Tenders For the Work of Selection of Consultant For Providing Transaction Advisory Services for Development of Land Parcels (6 Sites, 2 Properties) Located At Bengaluru Division on PPP Mode. Tender Reference: PWD/2024-25/SE0306 Addendum issued for Pre-bid Queries in the Tender Document / Kpp Portal of the work are Corrected as mentioned below:
EMD & Tender processing fees are mentioned in KPP portal.

Sl. No.	Condition Mentioned	Condition To be read as (Ref. Kpp Portal)
1.	Last date for Submission of Technical Bid + Financial Quote - 14-05-2025 at 16.00 hrs	The last date for submission of the proposals shall be extended till 23.05.2025 at 16.00 hrs
2.	Clause 5.3.1-Pre-Qualification Criteria	5.3.1. Pre-Qualification Criteria replaced with Amended Clause 5.3.1.
3.	Clause 5.3.2-Technical Evaluation Criteria	5.3.2. Technical Evaluation Criteria replaced with Amended Clause 5.3.1.

Note: All other condition of tender notification remains unaltered.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PWD, Bangalore Division, Bangalore.
DIPR/CP/500/Zen/2025-26

Between a temple town and a metropolis: The inner journeys of Jayant Kaikini

At a recent talk at the IISc in Bengaluru, the writer and lyricist spoke about the multiple influences that have pushed, moved, stayed with him over the many stages of his life

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

A still from the film 'Mungaru Male'. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Gourish Kaikini (left) with young Girish Karnad. THE HINDU ARCHIVE

Back in 1976, Jayant Kaikini did not get the research assistant's job he had applied for at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

The Kannada writer and lyricist began his recent talk at the same institute, titled *My Literary Journey*, with the story of how he missed the job. He filled in the application and took the written test needed to get the job, but in a hurry.

The reason for this haste? A film written and directed by P. Lankesh, one of his literary heroes, had just been released, and Kaikini scurried from the campus to watch it that afternoon. "For that afternoon show, he was supposed to be at the theatre, so I wanted to go and meet him after the show," recalls the award-winning writer at a lecture series called Paraspar, an initiative of IISc's Office of Communications. "I literally ran to it," he says, with a smile.

Unfortunately, the meeting with Lankesh appears to have left him disappointed. "My idol, my hero, had already published some of my poems in his magazine, at that time, and I thought he would talk to me about my poems," recalls Kaikini. Instead, Lankesh asked him about the film, specifically a scene that involved one of the characters running. "It was like a hotelier asking me if the chutney was good. He was the director of a brilliant film, which later won the national award, and he asked me if I liked the scene," he says, wryly.

Early life

Kaikini's deeply engaging storytelling skills were on full display through this talk, as he recounted anecdotes and observations drawn from his own life. The talk, he says, is a reflection "of things that have enriched my sensibilities in my life... whatever has pushed, moved, stayed with me." Kaikini was born in the temple town of Gokarna, as "a premature baby in a hurry to come to this planet. I was always restless," he says. He describes his father, Gourish Kaikini, as "an atheist and radical humanist, who wrote about everything and everybody," adding that while his father could have used his writing skills to become a great novelist or poet, he, instead, used it to open the minds of people. "My house was a hub of students, art lovers, poets," he says. "So I grew up in that kind of environment." His mother, on the other hand, was a fighter who had to run a household on her husband's meagre salary. "She did everything to run a small home... take a lottery agency, do LIC agency," he says, describing her as "very dominant, which was good."

As a child, he did not like writers, because they would come home and just keep talking. "I thought writers were useless because they only talk. So, I never thought I would write at all," confesses Kaikini, now a distinguished writer who has published seven short story anthologies, six poetry compilations, four essay collections, three plays and written countless superhit songs for Kannada films.

At the talk, Kaikini also shares some of his other experiences in Gokarna that shaped his sensibilities: discovering torn-up last pages of detective novels in the local library, watching the touring talkies, which would come to Gokarna after the harvest season or watching local theatre troupes perform. "All these things, there is a magic about it...something unknown...something that takes us away from our routine." Strangely, this also included the bus stand in Gokarna.

"The buses that came from big cities were another great attraction for us," he says. It made him think, "We should also go in this bus some day."

Moving away

Inevitably, that did happen, with Kaikini going first to Kumta and then to Dharwad for his higher education, leading him to experience "three kinds of culture shock," he says. "From Kannada medium to English medium, small town to bigger town and home stay to hostel stay," says Kaikini, who, during this phase, got terribly homesick and found himself going to the bus stand and looking at buses going to Gokarna. "Every evening, I would feel that this bus is so lucky because it is going to my home town."

Fortunately, literature came to his rescue around this time. "I started taking part in debates and competitions in small popular magazines," he says, pointing out how these popular magazines in regional languages have played a significant role in the development of writers and have nourished readers for generations. "I have a great admiration for them," says Kaikini, whose earliest

P. Lankesh. THE HINDU ARCHIVE

short stories were written for magazines like *Sudha* and *Mayura*. He still remembers a girl emerging from the ladies' room of his college and telling him that a story he had published in Sudha was very good. "That was like an Olympic gold medal, and I felt this is it," he recollects. "It is very motivating, and I became very popular in college just by writing short stories."

Kaikini refers to the three years he spent in college majoring in biochemistry as "a transition phase, where I wrote a lot of things", including election manifestos and love letters for his friends.. "That is helping me now write love songs," quips Kaikini, who went on to do his MSc in biochemistry at Karnatak University, Dharwad. "That opened another door in my life...a new door for theatre and cinema."

In Dharwad, as he exposed himself to more and more diverse forms of visual storytelling, Kaikini realised that "when I am writing, seeing a good film, a good play, reading a good book, there is something that takes me beyond this. And I become one with a collective being," he says. Art also gives us security because "it is not done by one person, but a collective," he says, recalling what his father used to tell him: society is not a tent which stands on a single pole, but a shamiana that stands on a thousand poles.

Kaikini also talks about other experiences and reflections that have shaped his perspectives: living in a highly-cosmopolitan Mumbai for nearly two decades; the curious dichotomy of being a writer - needing anonymity, while also desiring fame at the same time; the liberality of temple towns like Gokarna, which draw so many tourists and the spirituality and inspiration he finds in hospitals. He also talks about his family, career trajectory, move to Bengaluru, and tryst with film music.

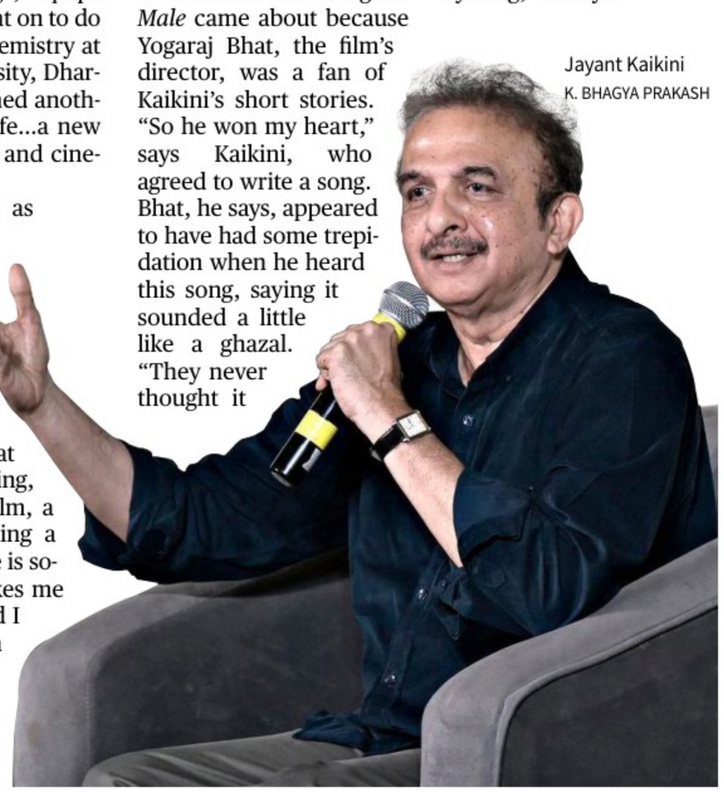
Background score

"Cinema songs are the background score of our life," says Kaikini, who began writing lyrics for film songs in 2003, starting with the Shiva Rajkumar starrer *Chigurida Kanasu*, based on a Shivaram Karanth novel.

His hit song, "Anisuthide...", for the 2006 Kannada romance film *Mungaru Male* came about because Yogaraj Bhat, the film's director, was a fan of Kaikini's short stories. "So he won my heart," says Kaikini, who agreed to write a song. Bhat, he says, appeared to have had some trepidation when he heard this song, saying it sounded a little like a ghazal. "They never thought it would become such a big hit," he says. "And the rest is history."

Kaikini then shifts back to the present, donning the hat of a social commentator. He points out that we, as a society, are going through very testing times, using the metaphor of a Snakes and Ladders board to explain human progress. "Our evolution from the Stone Age to here has been a snake-and-ladder game, where in the darkest of times, years ago, there was no education, no light, no knowledge... inequality, all kinds of blind beliefs," he says. Slowly, he says, education and awareness came, comparing these things to ladders in a society. "But still, snakes are there."

In his opinion, while these snakes continue to hamper progress, we have now nearly reached the pinnacle of the evolutionary ladder. "But now, as you know from any snake-and-ladder game, at that level, if a snake bites you, you will go back to the stone age," he says. "So you have to take care that we don't get consumed by the snake of divisive politics, caste, religion...everything," he says.



Jayant Kaikini
K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Mangoes for waste collection: Ploggers Army's 'sweet' reward on Labour Day

G. Nagaraj, founder of Indian Ploggers Army, organised a waste collection drive where the participants were rewarded with sweet and juicy mangoes

Vyas Ponnuri
BENGALURU

Participants in the waste collection drive and (right) the group of 31 volunteers also included children from around 15 underprivileged families living in the nearby slums. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mangoes are irresistible, all the more in summer. How about a mango as a reward after a waste collection drive? Wouldn't that taste even sweeter?

This is what G. Nagaraj, known as the "Plogman" of India, attempted at Jayanagar 9th block on May Day. Founder of Indian Ploggers Army, he organised a waste collection drive where the participants were rewarded sweet and juicy mangoes.

A 'sweet' drive

A group of 31 'ploggers' circled clusters within a radius of 1 km around the Jayanagar 9th Block Park between 8.10 and 9.30 a.m., collecting eight sacks full of waste in the process. With each sack containing 6 to 7 kg of waste, the group collected almost 45 kg of waste in the vicinity.

The group of 31 volunteers, who assisted in picking up waste around the park and its surrounding streets, also included children from around 15 underprivileged families living in the nearby slums.

But why mangoes as reward? To impart the happiness of earning a reward for sweating it out and putting in hard work, Nagaraj says.

This isn't the first time Nagaraj and his army have conducted such drives. A traditional Labour Day practice of the team has been to distribute lemon juice to roadside fruit vendors, auto rickshaw drivers and others working daily wage jobs, in a bid to provide respite from the searing summer heat. Post the COVID-19 induced lockdown, Nagaraj and his team have conducted several such drives across the country, bringing in an element of earning vegetables or fruits after a waste collection drive. Nagaraj notes that he always sought to add a 'seasonal' touch to his plogging drives, further motivating people to join these initiatives."After the COVID lockdown, we conducted a tomato plog, rewarding each participant with tomatoes after the drive. Given the summer season, we considered doing a mango plog, and rewarding volunteers with mangoes to mark their achievement," he says.

Awareness building

"The waste collection drive helped spread awareness on the practices of littering and the types of waste collected," says Seema Rao, a regular volunteer at the drives.

Noting that such events are important in inculcating civic sense, she further suggests that participating in the plog drives helped build a sense of self-awareness amongst the children.

"The children were eager to get their hands on the mangoes and competed to pick up the biggest mango! Just seeing their eagerness to learn brought a sense of satisfaction to our faces and a major motivation to take part in the waste collection drive," Rao notes.

Filled with enthusiasm

Peddina Sripriya, another volunteer who took part in the event, called it an experience filled with enthusiasm, learning, and community spirit. Pointing out that a significant chunk of the waste collected were plastic bottles, she noted how it served as a reminder to rethink one's consumption habits and start to embrace sustainable practices to preserve society.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 7, 1975

Hubli Mayor 'Ignored'

Hubli May 6: The controversy between the Commissioner and the Councillors of the Hubli Dharwad Municipal Corporation acquired a new dimension to-day when the First Citizen of the twin cities was ignored by the Karnataka Minister for Municipal Administration during the latter's visit to the Corporation's offices here.

Mr. Mathias, Mayor, and Mr. Kalal, Chairman of the Standing Committee, along with several Councillors were waiting to receive the Minister, Mr. D. K. Naikar, who was scheduled to visit the Corporation this morning.

'No Transfer of Bidar Villages to Maharashtra'

Bangalore, May 6: The Minister of State for Major Irrigation, Mr. Subhas Asture, who hails from Bidar district, said here to-day that there was no basis for the speculation that some villages might be given away to Maharashtra while arriving at a final settlement on the Karnataka-Maharashtra border dispute. Mr. Asture told newsmen that rumours spread by interested parties that 146 villages contiguous to Maharashtra border might be transferred to that State were agitating the minds of the people in Bidar district. He said the State Government would protect the interests of the people in Bidar and appealed to them not to give room for unnecessary complication.

Snakes, ladders, and mind games

Starring Kumud Mishra and Sumeet Vyas, Shubhrajyoti Barat's *Saanp Seedhi,* a remake of the Tony Award-winning play *Sleuth* on manipulation and deception, comes to Bengaluru this weekend

Praveen Sudevan

Catch me if you can Scenes from *Saanp Seedhi.* SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Aadyam Theatre's latest offering, *Saanp Seedhi*, promises Bengaluru audiences an edge-of-the-seat experience. Adapted from Anthony Shaffer's Tony Award-winning psychological thriller *Sleuth*, the Hindi play is directed by Shubhrajyoti Barat and stars Kumud Mishra and Sumeet Vyas. After a successful run in Delhi, it is set to play at Ranga Shankara on May 9 and 10.

At its heart, *Saanp Seedhi* is a lethal game of manipulation and deception between two men: a flamboyant film producer, Anil Wadhwa (played by Kumud), and his wife's lover, Mayank Tiwari (Sumeet). Set against the backdrop of Anil's sprawling, slightly surreal home in Goa, what starts as a seemingly civil confrontation soon spirals into a dangerous psychological battle where nothing is quite what it seems.

For director Shubhrajyoti, *Sleuth* was a play that had lived rent-free in his mind for years. "As a director or anyone involved in theatre, there are always plays you keep returning to," he says. "When Aadyam gave me the platform, it felt like the perfect time to bring it to life, especially with actors like Kumud and Sumeet on board."

But Shubhrajyoti was clear from the start that he did not want a mere translation; he wanted an adaptation that felt rooted in Indian soil.

Collaborating with playwright Akarsh Khurana, the team reimagined Shaffer's aristocratic British world into something more recognisably Indian. "Instead of the original's mystery novelist, Anil is now a B-grade film producer who has climbed up the ladder. This adds complexity to his character, a self-made man whose ego and insecurities play out in fascinating ways," he explains.

Visually, too, *Saanp Seedhi* tries to experiment. The set, Shubhrajyoti says, is designed with a backdrop of the sky and intentionally unfinished walls and ceiling, creating a liminal space that mirrors the characters' unraveling psyches. "It's like the house could meet infinity or fall apart at any moment," he says. "We also use a puppet as a silent observer, adding an extra layer of tension."

For Sumeet, stepping into the shoes of Mayank Tiwari was a long-awaited moment. "I had read *Sleuth* years ago and was supposed to perform it back then, but it didn't happen," he says. "So, when this opportunity came along, I felt both excited and relieved." His character, Mayank, is more than just the 'other man.' "He appears earnest and straightforward, but there's another side to him – a deep-seated reaction to bullying that makes him unpredictable. He's not just a victim; he takes action, and that makes him interesting to play."

Despite a busy career across web series and film, Sumeet says returning to theatre was both thrilling and nerve-racking. "I haven't opened a new play in almost a decade, so I was really excited to get back to rehearsals, make mistakes, and rediscover that process. It's the good kind of nervousness," he admits.

Both Sumeet and Shubhrajyoti highlight the strong bond between the cast, especially the dynamic between Sumeet and Kumud. Having worked together before, their friendship adds a layer of trust and freedom on stage.

Shubhrajyoti, who has known both actors personally for years, says directing close friends brought its own set of challenges. "It can be awkward shifting from friend to director, but with actors of this calibre, you don't have to micromanage. It's more about guiding the characters' arcs while trusting their instincts," he says.

Shubhrajyoti feels the thriller is an underexplored genre on the Indian stage made it especially appealing. "Thrillers are rarely done in theatre, and that scarcity was part of the attraction. A well-written script like this almost directs itself. You just need to represent it honestly, and it does the rest," he says.

The 90-minute Hindi play is for ages 15 and above. Catch it on May 9 and 10 at 7.30pm at Ranga Shankara. Tickets on BookMyShow.

Child-driven Actor Shivrajkumar, Geetha Shivrajkumar and Srinivas (extreme right) let the children take the centrestage at the muhurat. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A play of words and concepts

Shilpa Anandraj

Shivarajkumar returns to acting with the children's film, *A for Anand*. MG Srinivas, known for his out-of-the-box storylines and approach to visualisation and concepts, will direct the film. Cinematographer Mahendra Simha and composer Vasuki Vaibhav are also on board the project.

The RJ turned director, Srinivas, is known for films such as *Srinivasa Kalyana* and *Birbal*.Srinivas and Shivrajkumar joined hands for the muhurat of *A For Anand*, at Bande Mahakali Temple, Kempegowda Nagar. At the muhurat, school benches were used instead of chairs for seating. The way the stage was set, looked like an annual day programme at school with a brass bell placed in the left corner of the table and a black board with the details of the film written in chalk.

Shivarajkumar and some children rang the bell to indicate the beginning and end of the press conference. While the children were left to just be children, they were self-disciplined. After running helter-skelter all around, on stage they were responsible and answered questions, shared the film's premise with confidence and clarity. They were also in awe of Shivarajkumar, nudging and jostling each other trying to get closer to the actor.

Srinivas described *A For Anand* as a family entertainer. "It is going to be challenging as the story is child centric with drama and humour." Srinivas said he wanted to present Shivarajkumar in a light-hearted role.

"When I worked with him on *Ghost*, I realized he gets serious and intense roles. Once the camera is off, however, he is a complete clown making everyone laugh. He has a great timing for comedy, which is what we will be exploring in this film."

The film, Srinivas says, is backed by research. "We want it to be entertaining and also support the thought process and education of children."

Produced by Geetha Pictures, Shivarajkumar says, "*A For Anand* is not going to talk about things in a bookish manner, but rather present children as they are, on screen too. It will be a simple narrative using their language and vocabulary."

When the hit song 'Tuvi Tuvi' from Shivarajkumar's first film, *Anand, was played*, an emotional Shivarajkumar smiled saying, "*Anand* was a title chosen by my late mother, Parvathamma. And now Sreeni has chosen A for Anand as the title for this film, which makes it all the more special."

Shivarajkumar plays a teacher in *A for Anand* and urged his fans instead of only watching star vehicles, to watch films with new stories and newcomers to encourage them.

Of feathered tales and life lessons

Diya Rose Denny

Multilingual children's books' publisher Tulika Books organised the book launch of their latest title, *Go Go Flamingo*, at Atta Galatta in Bengaluru. Devashish Makhija, a filmmaker and graphic artist wrote the book, which sheds light on pertinent environmental issues.

Children's book writer, comic artist, doodler, animation filmmaker and illustrator, Priya Kuriyan, illustrated the book. At the event, she explained how she juxtaposed real objects with hand-drawn sketches to create a three-dimensional effect.

Go Go Flamingo tells the story of a flamboyance of flamingos find themselves entangled in a dump of waste as they search for water. Other titles by Devashish include *Why Paploo was Perplexed* and *When Ali Became Bajrangbali*.

Priya began the process of creating illustrations for the book by collecting the waste she found around her house. "I had cut-outs of my drawings of flamingos as well so the next step was trying to match discarded objects such as a piece of pipe, broken glass, rubber bands, paper clips and so on with the drawings."

She then digitally arranged photographs using Photoshop and other tools which was unlike her usual style of drawing illustrations using a pencil. "It was, in fact, Devashish who had suggested this after he saw a drawing of mine. I had once collected dried bird of paradise flowers and made a drawing of a bunch of flamingos entangled in these flowers. When Devashish saw it, he told me about his idea for this book and asked me to illustrate it."

The real picture Priya Kuriyan. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"I believe this method went well with the spirit of the book which brings out the idea of managing with what you have."

Influenced by artists such as Mario Miranda and Atanu Roy while growing up, Priya's detailed, colourful and contrasting illustrations fill each page of the book, and sheds light on deeper social issues such as consumption and unthinking littering by humans.

Since parents children's books are read with the parents, incorporating such social themes is a good way for adults to start conversations with their children on issues such as plastic waste, pollution, consumerism and so on, Priya says.

"I hope the readers, both children and parents, register the irony in the story, where though it's about flamingos, it is also about humans and how we are consuming so much and discard them endlessly."

During the book launch, after an interactive reading of the book and book signing, Priya also engaged the children by drawing flamingos and gave them tips. "For anyone to be a good illustrator you just have to keep drawing, reading and observing the world because it is important to look at the world with curiosity. All your good ideas are there and you are writing about the real world around you."

Currently, Priya is working on illustrating a book by filmmaker Amit Dutta and another with writer Paro Anand.

Go Go Flamingo is available for ₹275 at the Atta Galatta Bookstore, Indiranagar and on the Tulika Books website

CITYBEATS

Savour the moment

ONGOING
As Toast & Tonic prepare to bid a fond farewell to their patrons, they are offering Teq-Tonics – a curated collection of tequila-based cocktails. These specials include tequila cocktails infused with betel cordial, blue pea-infused tequila with sakura shrub, or mixed with passion fruit, coriander and more.
Till June 15 at Toast & Tonic, at 14/1 Wood Street, Ashok Nagar, Richmond Road. Call 8976733443 for details.

Mamma Mia

MAY 9 TO 11
The Mother's Day special buffet launched at Daysie - All Day Casual Bar is a real treat. Along with signature cocktails and mocktails, lunch is a limited-edition food and beverage menu, featuring truffle paneer tikka with red wine sauce, smoked eggplant and ricotta ravioli in clove tomato broth as well as desserts such as tiramisu brownies and more.
Available at Daysie - All Day Casual Bar, MG Road and RR Nagar. Call 918040210000.

Fun and food

MAY 11
Celebrate Mother's Day with Si Nonna's exclusive event -- Make Your Own Pizza. Patrons can craft their own pizzas with a choice of toppings. Open to children and adults, this is a hand-on experience.
Si Nonna is known for its 48-hour fermented sourdough crust, premium ingredients, and Jain and vegan friendly options.
At all Si Nonna's outlets, noon to 7pm. Call 7977778047.

INBRIEF

Delhi HC gives relief to A.R. Rahman in copyright case

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday stayed an interim order against music composer A.R. Rahman and the makers of the film *Ponniyin Selvan 2* over an alleged copyright infringement case related to the song *Veera Raja Veera* featured in the 2023 film. The lawsuit was filed by Padma Shri awardee Ustad Faiyaz Wasifuddin Dagar alleging unauthorised use of a classical composition titled *Shiva Stuti*. The court posted the matter for further hearing on May 23.

High Court: Provide police protection to KSP president

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has directed the State government to give police protection to Mahesh Joshi, president of the Kannada Sahitya Parishat, as the threat assessment/analysis report has indicated several instances of threat perception projecting in real time in certain places of the State.

The court also directed the government to provide the services of a personal security/gunman, as and when sought for, when Mr. Joshi is wanting to travel in the State, particularly, where the threat to the petitioner is in real. Whenever Mr. Joshi travels, the jurisdictional police should accord such police protection, the court said.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna issued the directions while disposing a petition filed by Mr. Joshi, who had complained that his multiple representation to the Home Department seeking protection due to threats received from various individuals and groups through various media, including through messages on mobile phone, did not receive any response.

The court had asked the government submit the threat assessment/analysis report.

Kerala, Centre at odds in SC over withdrawal of petitions

Centre maintains the case of Kerala is different from that of T.N.; State counsel argues that pleas had become infructuous since the court's ruling applied equally to Kerala; next hearing on May 13

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The State of Kerala in the Supreme Court on Tuesday insisted on withdrawing its case against its Governor for delaying crucial Bills, saying the court's April 8 judgment requiring Governors and President to decide on pending State Bills within a maximum of three months, has settled the law.

Senior advocate K.K. Venugopal, representing Kerala, argued that the petitions had become infructuous since the court's ruling applied equally to Kerala. He said it was "quite strange" that the Centre was opposing the State's exclusive prerogative to withdraw its case.

Petitions have become infructuous. We will be withdrawing them
Senior advocate K.K. VENUGOPAL, appearing for Kerala
These are constitutional issues. It cannot be filed and withdrawn lightly
Solicitor General TUSHAR MEHTA, appearing for the Centre

However, the Centre, represented by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, remained adamant, refusing to let go of Kerala's case, and saying it should indeed be heard by the court. The Union government maintained the case of Kerala was different from that of Tamil Nadu.

Mr. Mehta persisted that a State cannot file petitions of this nature against a Governor "lightly", and equally, withdraw them lightly. Justice Narasimha said the court realised that the State was entitled to withdraw the case, but agreed to post it for further hearing on May 13.

Kerala's case against its Governor dates back to over two years. In a hearing on November 20, 2023, Mr. Venugopal had said eight key Bills were pending for eight to 23 months with the Governor. Subsequently, the Governor had assented to one Bill and referred the rest to the President.

SC reinstates A. Raja as Devikulam MLA

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday upheld the 2021 Assembly election win of Devikulam MLA and CPI (M) leader A. Raja while setting aside a Kerala High Court decision invalidating the poll result to the reserved seat.

The top court ordered that Mr. Raja should receive all the consequential benefits of the judgment in his favour. The High Court had found the legislator ineligible for Scheduled Caste reservation on the ground that he was a Christian convert. Congress candidate D. Kumar, who lost the election, had cast doubts on the validity of the caste certificate of the CPI(M) leader.

In his appeal in the top court, Mr. Raja had said he was a member of a Scheduled Caste, namely 'Hindu-Parayan' by birth and professing Hindu religion all through his life. He had argued that the High Court, in its judgment, had not referred to the certificates submitted by him.

SC: experts should resolve Mullaperiyar

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said experts with specialised knowledge and not politicians are required to find a solution to the prolonged dispute between Tamil Nadu and Kerala over the maintenance of the 125-year-old Mullaperiyar dam.

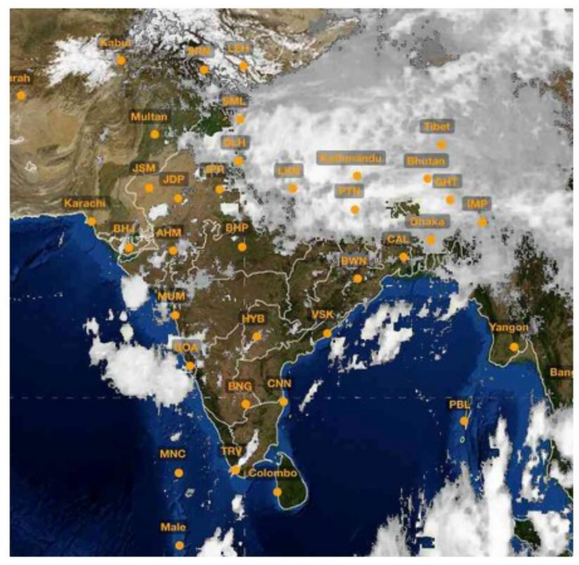
"The Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu and Kerala and our Prime Minister may be very respected persons. But in this particular field, they may not have the in-depth knowledge. That is why we wanted experts... Our interest is the safety and security of the dams," Justice Dipankar Datta, a member of the three-judge Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant, remarked.

The court noted that both Tamil Nadu and Kerala had not treated with seriousness recommendations made by a supervisory committee constituted by the Centre under the Dam Safety Act, 2021.

The court fixed the next hearing on May 19.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya and coastal Andhra Pradesh. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karnataka, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	34.8	25.3	Kozhikode	—	37.4	28.0
Ahmedabad	19	33.7	20.9	Kurnool	—	40.4	28.8
Aizawl	—	31.8	20.2	Lucknow	—	35.1	23.3
Allahabad	—	38.2	22.7	Madurai	—	39.5	26.5
Bengaluru	—	34.4	21.9	Mangaluru	—	34.1	25.1
Bhopal	7	34.6	18.2	Mumbai	—	34.0	28.9
Bhubaneswar	—	37.6	26.2	Mysuru	—	34.0	21.0
Chandigarh	20.4	32.4	19.4	New Delhi	—	36.0	22.7
Chennai	—	35.5	28.4	Patna	65	31.3	21.6
Coimbatore	—	36.2	25.0	Port Blair	11	32.6	24.8
Dehradun	—	33.8	19.7	Puducherry	—	36.0	26.8
Gangtok	3	21.0	13.7	Pune	—	39.8	24.4
Goa	—	37.0	27.0	Raipur	—	38.6	24.7
Guwahati	2	30.0	22.1	Ranchi	—	33.3	21.4
Hubballi	—	37.0	23.0	Shillong	27	22.0	15.0
Hyderabad	2	37.4	22.5	Shimla	0.4	25.8	15.0
Imphal	—	30.6	21.3	Srinagar	—	27.0	12.1
Jaipur	—	32.5	22.8	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.0	26.4
Kochi	—	32.6	25.0	Tiruchi	—	39.1	27.4
Kohima	8	20.6	14.5	Vijayawada	—	37.8	27.2
Kolkata	—	36.0	27.6	Visakhapatnam	—	35.7	28.1

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.38	.56	.12	95	92	
Bengaluru	.6	.17	.36	91	116	
Chennai	.25	.18	.37	53	54	
Delhi	.17	.96	.58	118	194	
Hyderabad	.10	.90	.44	65	68	
Kolkata	.6	.28	.23	74	76	
Lucknow	.6	.46	.42	132	148	
Mumbai	.20	.18	.25	51	101	
Pune	.13	.—	102	69	74	
Visakhapatnam	.17	.42	.32	73	106	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Gurugram, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 202 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Palkalaiperur, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 21

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

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Persuasion strategy

Pakistan must hand over designated terrorists to India

For the first time in over 50 years, India has been told that it is on the threshold of a full-scale war. The drills seek to bring that war into the people's consciousness, not as a media event but as a way of preparing them for what could unfold in their lives. Civil defence preparedness is a key element of war strategy. These drills will help to take stock of how common people, those responsible for key civil assets and trained personnel, will interact and act in a war-like situation. Defence preparedness is another matter altogether. The government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has not baulked at national, war-like mobilisations. From demonetisation through Swachh Bharat to the lights off during COVID-19 that also tested electric grid resilience, there have been many projects that have sought to tell the people that they have to be in mission-mode. Grid resilience is once again being tested by the drills through blackouts.

Wars and war-like simulations can serve to bring up consciousness and produce more social cohesiveness and a focus on common, larger goals. They can prepare the people for hardships without their losing morale. The other side is, of course, destruction. In the eyes of many, including possibly the government, Pahalgam was India's 9/11, if not in its scale but in the response. This view holds that Pakistan is the Afghanistan of 2001 – a nation coming apart with only religious zealots holding it together using terror as the only statecraft. George W. Bush's "I hear you" in the rubble of the World Trade Center was followed by a blitzkrieg that sought to bomb the nation into the Stone Age. The U.S. had zero risk of any retaliation then. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's promise to pursue terrorists to the end of the earth comes with the risk of a furious retaliation if the pursuit means full-fledged war. While testing civil defence preparedness is one thing, a real war is a highly dangerous escalation that will do little good to the narrative of India being an economic powerhouse ready to take its place in a multipolar world as a true and responsible leader. The government must keep its options open so that Pakistan may be persuaded to walk back from the brink by agreeing to hand over terror leaders of the LeT, JeM and fringe outfits. India's non-muscular response to 26/11 brought much shame to Pakistan and the Pakistani media willingly brought more shame to its government by turning its focus on Ajmal Kasab's village and family. Perhaps the civil defence preparedness drills will serve as psy-ops, signalling India's intent that could make Pakistan see the folly of using terror as a tactic in geopolitical disputes.

Hell on earth

The world should restrain Israel from occupying Gaza

Gaza, as the Red Cross has put it, has already become "hell on earth". In 19 months, Israeli forces have killed more than 52,000 Palestinians in the enclave, most of them women and children. Nearly all of Gaza's 2.3 million residents have been displaced, many, multiple times. Tens of thousands have been wounded in a territory that lacks even basic medical facilities. Israel has imposed a renewed siege on the 365-sq.-km strip, deepening an already dire hunger crisis, and threatening, as the UN Human Rights Office warned, the viability of the Palestinians continuing to live in Gaza. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government has decided to call up tens of thousands of reservists and launch an intensified ground offensive in the enclave, aimed at capturing and holding territory, and taking direct control of aid delivery. Israel has already reduced to rubble much of northern Gaza, and forcefully moved the over one million people who used to live there before the war began in October 2023. Now, Mr. Netanyahu says that as part of the new offensive, Palestinians would be moved again from their makeshift shelters and refugee camps. The Israeli government claims that "military pressure" is the only way to force Hamas to release the remaining hostages. But in the name of combating Hamas, Mr. Netanyahu has unleashed a relentless assault on the entire population of the Gaza Strip, even as the rest of the world watches passively.

Despite the use of callous, inhumane military tactics, which led the International Criminal Court to issue an arrest warrant against Mr. Netanyahu, Israel has faced little resistance from the most powerful nations. West Asia's only nuclear power continues to receive weapons from its western allies. The Biden administration provided consistent military and diplomatic support throughout the war. And President Donald Trump, who once threatened to empty out the Palestinians from Gaza, appears to have given a carte blanche to Mr. Netanyahu. With no meaningful restraints, Mr. Netanyahu is now poised to make another grave mistake by expanding the offensive. Over the past 19 months of war, the best opportunity for peace was the implementation of the January 2025 ceasefire agreement. It required, in the second phase, Israel's withdrawal from Gaza and Hamas releasing the remaining hostages. But Israel's refusal and also Hamas's refusal to hand over the hostages without Israeli pull-back led to the resumption of fighting. If Mr. Netanyahu proceeds with his plans, it will not just deepen the moral and humanitarian crisis but also deal a devastating blow to any attempt to end the conflict through talks. The world should show greater moral and institutional courage in confronting mass violence and forced displacements perpetrated by nation-states.

The fragmentation in the global fight against terror

T.S. Tirumurti

was Ambassador/ Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, New York (2020-22)

The Pahalgam terror attack of April 22 has exposed, yet again, the fragmentation in the global fight against terror and Pakistan's resort to terrorism when it fears normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir. While a number of countries have condemned the Pahalgam attack, they have, at the same time, called upon India and Pakistan to exercise restraint. The United States Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, went to the extent of calling on both parties to "work towards ... a responsible resolution that maintains long term peace and regional stability in South Asia". U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance "hoped" that India's response would not lead to a wider regional conflict. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has said that "settling disagreements" between New Delhi and Islamabad on a bilateral basis should be by political and diplomatic means. The European Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Kaja Kallas could not even get around to calling it a "terror attack".

The end of a collective fight

Gone are the days of "zero tolerance" to terror. Gone are the days when the perpetrators of terror were called out and accountability demanded. Some have even asked India for "proof" of Pakistan's complicity, conveniently forgetting *inter alia* the Pulwama (2019) and 26/11 Mumbai (2008) terror attacks. In effect, they are calling on India, the victim, to be restrained and to not go after Pakistan, the perpetrator and backer.

India should not be surprised. To begin with, the appetite for a flare-up in Asia is low after the raging wars in Ukraine, Gaza and West Asia. Moreover, successful elections in Jammu and Kashmir and tourists flocking to Kashmir are red flags for Pakistan. To top it all, the global fight against terror is no more a collective fight. It is now left for each state to fend for itself. The consensus reached after the 9/11 terror attacks in the U.S. in 2001, to fight terror comprehensively, seems to have run its course. The world has gone back to the era of "my terrorist" and "your terrorist."

Europe is focused on "its" terrorists – right-wing extremism and terror. The U.S., under former President Joe Biden, focused on REMVE, or racially and ethnically motivated violent extremism. The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is keen only to use Islamophobia as an excuse to condone terror. Canada has told India that "your" terrorists are not "my" terrorists and that any terrorist threat against India from its soil is covered under its freedom of expression – in effect asking India to wait till a terror act is committed before approaching them. China has blocked proposals submitted by India in 2022 to "black-list", under the UN Security Council 1267 sanctions regime, terrorists operating against India from Pakistani soil. Now that Pakistan is in the UN Security Council (UNSC) for 2025-26 (as a non-permanent member), these will remain blocked for at least two more years.

> Gone are the days of a united fight against, and 'zero tolerance' to terror; a different yardstick applies when it comes to India, which is a victim of state-sponsored terror

The world is blindsided by the spread of terror in Asia and Africa. Terrorism in Africa has spread exponentially, from the Sahel to Mozambique. The Global Terrorism Index 2025 points out that the Sahel is now the epicentre of terrorism, accounting for over half of all terrorism deaths in the world. But the international community says they are "your" terrorists not "my" terrorists and is short-changing Africa.

A different yardstick for India

However, a different yardstick applies when it comes to India, which is the biggest victim of state-sponsored terror from Pakistan. First, it is about "regional stability" and not about fighting terror as Pakistan has successfully sold the "nuclear war" bogey to the world. Even as they egg Ukraine on in its war with "nuclear" Russia, the thought of two developing countries using nuclear arms scares the West enough to call on India to stop fighting cross-border terror. It is quickly forgotten that it was Prime Minister Narendra Modi who called on Russian President Vladimir Putin not to use nuclear arms in the Ukraine war for which he was thanked by the U.S. among other countries.

Further, it is now common knowledge that in Pahalgam, the terrorists singled out the tourists based on religion and shot them. A Muslim pony ride operator was shot while trying to save the tourists. The terror attack, which The Resistance Front (a proxy of the Pakistan-based terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba) claimed that it had carried out – it retracted this statement later – was clearly done to raise tensions and create a communal divide in India.

While the whole world cries hoarse in condemning Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and Christianophobia, why does it become silent when calling out the recent attack for what it is , i.e., Hinduphobia? When even protests in American university campuses are being dubbed anti-Semitic or Islamophobic and portrayed in religious terms, rather than contextualising them in terms of the 52,000 Palestinians killed in Gaza or Israeli hostages still with Hamas, to maintain radio silence on Hinduphobic attacks is glaring, if not unexpected. Even U.S. presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy, was confronted with accusations of belonging to a "pagan, wicked" faith while on the campaign trail.

But there has been a refreshing departure – the statement by the U.S. Director of National Intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard, who characterised the Pahalgam attack in religious terms, as a "horrific Islamist terrorist attack" and recognised that the targets were Hindus. A silver lining is the extradition of Tahawwur Rana from the U.S. to India for the Mumbai attacks, even if big fish, David Headley, is still in the U.S.

Further, predictably, Pakistan used its presence in the UNSC to move for an emergency closed session on a "deteriorating regional environment and rising tension" posing "a serious risk of escalation". In 2019, a similar closed meeting took place, at China's behest, just after Article 370 was abrogated, but fizzled out. The meeting now was no different and no document was issued. It underlined once again that the P-5 (the five permanent UNSC member states), with the exception of China, is in no mood to play the "Kashmir" game, which it considers to be a bilateral matter between India and Pakistan (even if parts of it have been ceded by Pakistan to China).

India's move to keep the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance has also been targeted by Pakistan at the UNSC. India will no doubt keep the pressure on the UNSC to stop any outcome document, unlike how a similar issue was dealt with in 2021 between Ethiopia and Egypt on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam. Any one country in the UNSC can stop a statement.

The path ahead

Consequently, if the world is so concerned about India not using kinetic options to fight terror from where it originates, should not India's "strategic" partners demand accountability from Pakistan rather than substituting harsh words for real action or calling on "both sides" to "defuse" tensions? To deter Pakistan, India's close Gulf partners, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, which are themselves undertaking internal socio-religious reforms, need to step up. The international community must act to deter and sanction Pakistan, and not merely react episodically. If it refuses to act, India will act alone. Apart from the current slew of options, India will also have to think ahead

Having built a strong international framework to combat terror, including terror financing and misuse of emerging technology, the international community cannot step back on combating terror, especially state-sponsored terrorism. Three years after raising it for the first time in the UN General Assembly in 2022, India has yet another opportunity to take the lead in combating religiophobia against non-Abrahamic religions. This time its campaign should go beyond the UN, where select Indian Missions should take up the issue bilaterally with their host countries.

All this points to one thing. India should not only create geopolitical space for itself through its strategic autonomy and multi-alignment policy, but must also be prepared to use it when it matters. There is no doubt that such parleys are on.

Reading the maple leaves after the Canadian result

Atanu Biswas

is Professor of Statistics, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata

To what extent can a leader of a country unintentionally sway the election of another G-7 nation? The answer: quite a bit, and surprisingly so, if the leader is Donald Trump.

On April 28, Canadians cast their ballots in crucial snap federal elections. A few months ago, under Justin Trudeau's leadership, the ruling Liberal Party appeared doomed to lose. However, it experienced an incredible fairy-tale-like reversal in its electoral fortunes.

There was a great deal of apprehension around Mr. Trudeau's resignation as Prime Minister in early January. Mr. Trump's bullying of Mr. Trudeau, and Mr. Trump's sweeping tariffs and his threats of annexation to make Canada the "cherished 51st state" of the U.S. were the catalysts. Canadians did not like them. Many Canadian coffee shops began rebranding "Americano" as "Canadiano" in what could be an example of the outburst of Canadian nationalism.

The contestants

Canada's Conservative Party and its leader, Pierre Poilievre, are believed to share ideological similarities with Mr. Trump and his Republican Party. In a survey by Nanos in mid-January, the Liberals trailed the Conservative Party by 47% to 20%, and the Conservatives were predicted to get one of the largest parliamentary majorities in decades. However, in one of the most dramatic swings in contemporary world history, such a massive 20-plus point lead disappeared in roughly 14 weeks, with the ruling Liberals getting a 2.4% more vote share in the actual election.

Having served as the Governor of the Bank of Canada from 2008 to 2013 and having helped Canada get through the 2008 financial crisis, and later as the Governor of the Bank of England from 2013 to 2020 and managing the economic fallout from Brexit therein, Mark Carney has a reputation for managing crises. He was elected leader of the Liberal Party and succeeded Mr. Trudeau as Prime Minister. Observing a rapidly changing national mood prompted by Mr. Trump's aggression, Mr. Carney decided, just nine days in office, that a snap federal election was his best bet.

> The election boiled down to who was going to protect Canada from the 'madman south of the border'

Perhaps, unintentionally, Mr. Trump had "hijacked" Canada's election. And Mr. Carney handled this election as though it was a referendum on Canada's sovereignty. The election essentially turned out to be about who was going to protect Canada from the madman south of their border.

Mr. Carney was haunted by Mr. Trudeau's ghost, nevertheless. The Conservatives claimed that he was "just like Justin" Trudeau and blamed him for Mr. Trudeau's shortcomings. Nonetheless, it appears that Mr. Carney was able to shed the burden of the Trudeau baggage. "I am a very different person than Justin Trudeau," Mr. Carney stated. And a new leadership certainly helped the Liberals, as it often happens.

Mr. Poilievre was on the verge of becoming the next Prime Minister just a few months ago, but his party went into disarray due to a dramatic shift in popular sentiment brought on by the spectre of MAGA (Make America Great Again) and Mr. Trump. Mr. Poilievre has been compared to Mr. Trump and condemned for his populist political style. Chrystia Freeland, a Liberal leader, referred to him as "maple syrup MAGA". The Liberals have highlighted general parallels between the speeches of Mr. Trump and Mr. Poilievre as a scathing indictment of the Conservative leader. And it worked politically – Mr. Poilievre lost his seat.

Mr. Poilievre has attempted to distance himself from Mr. Trump in light of the altered situation. Mr. Trump has said that Mr. Poilievre is not "MAGA enough". Unfortunately, the mighty don failed to reverse the "Trump effect" in the Canadian elections.

Voter consolidation

The Liberals won but narrowly missed an absolute majority in Canada's 343-member House of Commons. However, there is no denying that the Conservatives under Mr. Poilievre did remarkably well to get 143 seats and a 41.3% vote share. The real loser in this election may be the Jagmeet Singh-led New Democratic Party (he has now resigned), a far-left socialist party, whose vote share decreased to 6.3% from 17.8%. Also, the Green Party strategically decided not to run candidates everywhere. Thus, there was a left-wing voter consolidation towards the Liberals, as Mr. Carney could successfully portray himself as the protector of Canadian nationalism.

Overall, there has been a strange ideological role reversal. Although Mr. Carney is not a populist, he used nationalist clichés more frequently to support liberal democracy. In Canada today, conservatives advocate economic pragmatism, while liberals wave the flag and invoke sovereignty. According to Althea Gagnon, a University of Toronto professor, "It's 1984 - but in reverse".

A similar Trump effect was also evident in the election in Australia this month. However, Mr. Trump and the Republicans might have a consolation prize from the Canadian election. With the primary agenda of opposing Mr. Trump, Canada behaved like America's 51st State – a Democrat-leaning State, though. Thus, it is possible that this election may even force Mr. Trump and MAGA supporters to abandon their plans to annex Canada, as it might swing the balance of power against the Republicans in the hypothetically revised American map.

Ties with New Delhi

How will the Canadian election result impact the India-Canada relationship? In September 2023, then-Prime Minister Mr. Trudeau openly accused India of its involvement in the killing of a Canadian-Sikh citizen on Canadian soil, – which India strongly rejected – leading to a diplomatic rift between the two countries. Will a new leader with a different outlook be able to bring about a reset now?

On the election trail, Mr. Carney and Mr. Poilievre indicated a desire to put the Trudeau-era cold shoulder behind them and strengthen ties with India. It, however, might necessitate a difficult confrontation with the past, which is beyond simple diplomatic courtesy.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Civil defence' drills

The drills amid rising tensions between India and Pakistan put us in a certain mode of uncertainty about the future. Nobody knows how a war will pan out, but everybody knows that it will exact a terrible cost. A war between two nuclear-armed neighbours can be described in one word — "annihilation". In this day and age, a war does not produce a winner. Alternatives to war should be tried. Instead of being swayed by nationalist and religious sentiments, they must hold themselves back from fighting a war by some sense of self-preservation.

G. David Milton,
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

Karl Marx statue

While the plan to have a statue of Karl Marx in Chennai is one that should be appreciated, it is hoped that there will be a change and that it will be installed opposite the Triumph of Labour statue on Marina Beach as Marx stood for the triumph of labour. The plan to have it at the entrance of the Connemara Public Library should be changed as it should not become another museum piece.

N.G.R. Prasad,
Chennai

Corrections & Clarifications

In an article, "Demise of foreign aid in India" ('Opinion' page, May 5, 2025), the reference to India becoming the fifth *largest economy* by 2047, should have been '*developed nation*'.

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Power and pitfalls of digital influence

Gopal Jain

Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India

As digital connectivity grows, India faces a complex battle against misinformation and de-influencing. While social media enables vital communication, it also amplifies unchecked content. De-influencing – where influencers discourage purchases – can promote mindful consumption, but often relies on sensationalism and clickbait for engagement.

Despite expert advice being essential, digital platforms often become the go-to place, enabling the rapid spread of misinformation. To counter this, strict regulations are needed.

Experts consulted for the World Economic Forum's 2024 Global Risks Report identify India as one of the nations most vulnerable to misinformation and disinformation. This is largely driven by the rise of AI-generated content and the influence of social media platforms. Despite the Ministry of Consumer Affairs' "Endorsement Know-hows" and ASCI/SEBI guidelines, misleading health advice and weight loss reels blur the line between organic and paid content. Influencers often use shock tactics, clickbait, and half-truths to go viral, rapidly fuelling misinformation.

Legal landscape

While Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution guarantees freedom of speech, it is subject to reasonable restrictions under Article 19(2), including defamation, public order, and morality. The Supreme Court has upheld that free speech does not protect spreading misinformation or harmful content.

The Consumer Protection Act, 2019, bans misleading advertisements, holds influencers accountable for deceptive promotions. Digital regulations under the IT Act (Sections 66 & 67), the Intermediary Guidelines, 2021, and defamation and e-commerce laws penalise harmful content and ensure accurate endorsements.

Though not legally binding, ASCI guidelines set ethical standards, with non-compliance leading to blacklisting and public reprimands.

With stricter enforcement, influencers must prioritise transparency and credibility, making ethical content creation essential in the evolving digital landscape.

An influencer's intent is key when critiquing brands. Honest reviews aid consumers, but exaggerated negativity for clicks or sponsorships is a commercial tactic. Indian defamation laws protect against misleading content, highlighting the need for authenticity. While influencers operate across many fields, health-related content is held to a higher pedestal. There are norms in place, but something more critical is required in the health sector to ensure that advice is reliable and responsible.

Influencer content blurs the line between fact and manipulation with selective data, ambiguous language, and cherry-picked events. Misinterpreted studies and emotional appeals create misleading narratives that prioritise engagement over accuracy.

We have all fallen for clickbait, especially when it promises to teach us "how to avoid cancer" or "how to make liver detox water." These trends highlight influencers' role in shaping narratives and public discourse. Viral content often outpaces fact-checked information, making critical thinking, source verification, and expert consultation crucial.

Evolving regulation

Regulations for social media influencers are tightening, with a focus on accountability and responsible content. SEBI recently imposed strict rules on "finfluencers," restricting real-time stock data in educational content to prevent influencers from influencing financial decisions without proper expertise or authorisation.

Legal scrutiny now extends to misleading advertisements. In *Indian Medical Association vs Union of India,* the Court held influencers accountable for false endorsements, and the Delhi High Court stressed claim verification, especially in health content. With non-experts gaining visibility on unregulated platforms, health advice must come from qualified professionals. Strong ethical norms and legal oversight are crucial to curb misinformation.

In a landmark ruling, the Delhi High Court restrained an influencer from disparaging a brand, emphasising that freedom of speech under Article 19(1)(a) is not absolute. It upheld restrictions to prevent defamation and ruled that health content must be backed by qualified professionals with disclosed credentials.

While influencers gain trust, exploiting it for personal gain damages credibility. As trust erodes, influencers and brands risk losing their authenticity.

Moreover, establishing a registration system or database for influencers disseminating public health information is essential. Such a system would function as a continuous monitoring tool, ensuring transparent accountability for the content produced. This approach would help curb the unchecked spread of misinformation and empower consumers to make well-informed, objective assessments, especially given the significant safety and perception challenges associated with health-related content. Recognising the ethical dimensions inherent in public health communication, robust ethical practices must complement legal measures to safeguard public interests.

Brands must invest in consumer education, while regulators and platforms should enforce strict guidelines against misinformation. It is critical to enforce stringent guidelines to hold influencers accountable for their content and unchecked promotional activities, thereby safeguarding consumer interests.

Brands must invest in consumer education, while regulators and platforms should enforce strict guidelines against misinformation

KSEB's hydel push stirs fresh concerns

Kerala's long-disputed Athirappilly hydroelectric project is back in focus

STATE OF PLAY

Tiki Rajwi
tiki.rajwi@thehindu.co.in

Tourism sells. But should it be used to sell the idea of a contentious hydroelectric project that has, for decades, aroused deep misgivings and resentment is the question now doing the rounds in Kerala.

A little over a week ago, State-run power utility Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) sprang a surprise when it announced plans to examine whether the Athirappilly hydroelectric project can be developed as an 'Integrated tourism-cum-power generation project.'

Proposed on the west-flowing Chalakudy river in Kerala's Thrissur district, the 163-megawatt (MW) hydel project, first mooted in 1979, has come to symbolise the perpetual war against mindless development and destruction of nature in the southern State. After a long gap, what has abruptly turned the spotlight on it is an April 24 order stating that a meeting of the full-time directors of the KSEB has given its approval "for remodelling the Athirappilly HEP as a tourism-friendly project."

Despite winning environmental sanction in 1998 from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, the Athirappilly hydel project has failed to get off the ground on account of environmental concerns. Greens have long opposed it, citing the irreversible consequences it entails for an exceptionally biodiversity-rich region located within the Western Ghats. Since it involves the construction of a dam, concerns have been raised over the potential destruction of large tracts of riparian forest land, an abundant wealth of flora and fauna, and the displacement of Kadars, a Scheduled Tribe that calls the region home. Furthermore, greens argue that the project would alter the very character of the Chalakudy river and sound the death knell for the scenic Athirappilly and Vazhachal waterfalls.

The protests have prompted successive State governments to declare that the project would only be implemented with consensus. As a result, it has lain in such a state of dormancy that it was expected to die a natural death. This impression had gained currency especially in recent years, even though all were aware that the KSEB, which handles power generation, transmission, and distribution in power-deficit Kerala, had not fully given up on its pet project.

On April 28, the KSEB followed up its order with a press statement explaining its intention to see whether the hydel project can be developed in tandem with tourist amenities and present the concept for public debate. The announcement was quickly met with the criticism that the KSEB was merely trying to repackage the project in the glossy wrappings of tourism. State government sources responded to the renewed outrage among environmentalists and local communities by denying that the plan has the backing of a political decision.

Nevertheless, it is interesting to note that the Athirappilly hydel project is back in the news at a time when Kerala's power sector is witnessing dramatic changes.

Hydropower has traditionally dominated the power-deficit State's internal electricity generation. Yet, internal production has served to meet only about 30% of the requirement, leaving the State heavily dependent on allocations from central generating stations and power purchases from outside.

But of late, Kerala has been witnessing a surge in the use of other forms of renewable energy, especially solar power. It aspires to become a 100% renewable energy-based State by 2040 and net carbon neutral by 2050. In the immediate future, the State hopes to add 3,000 MW through solar and wind energy projects and 1,500 MW through hydro projects. (The plans for hydropower, it must be noted, do not include the Athirappilly.)

Besides these, pumped storage projects, battery energy storage systems, and green hydrogen initiatives are also being actively pursued.

The question arises whether the Athirappilly hydel project, conceived decades ago in a different context, holds relevance anymore in this rapidly changing landscape that offers accessible, less-expensive options.

Furthermore, one cannot dismiss the fact that Kerala has witnessed a string of natural disasters in recent years. Such a sombre backdrop demands that development projects, especially ones in fragile locations, undergo hard and prudent scrutiny through the lens of environmental sustainability, safety, and long-term public good.

Food vs fuel: Surge in ethanol blending and its impacts

Will the increased diversion of sugar for ethanol blending reduce its availability for direct consumption?

DATA POINT

Nitika Francis

India is looking to increase the ethanol-blending ratio in petrol to 30% to further cut down on fossil fuel consumption, as it has met its previous target of 20% in 2025, well ahead of schedule. This would require an increase in the diversion of sugar, produced from sugarcane and other sources, for ethanol production. However, sugarcane production has been on the decline since 2022, so much so that on Thursday, the Centre approved a hike in the Fair Remunerative Price for the crop to protect the interests of farmers. Consequently, the price of sugar has risen too, pinching the pockets of consumers.

Will the increased diversion of sugar for ethanol blending further reduce its availability for direct consumption and push prices even higher?

Chart 1 shows the annual sugarcane production in India in the last 10 years. Following a dip in FY17 due to drought conditions in sugar-producing States, production was almost consistently increasing until it peaked at 490 crore tonnes in FY23. It declined in the following year and is estimated to further dip in FY25 as well to 435 crore tonnes.

A slate of components has influenced lower production of sugarcane over the recent years, such as red-rot disease among crops in major sugar-producing States, deficient rains, and problems with the flowering of crops.

This decline in production has predictably impacted the retail sugar prices across the country. **Chart 2**, which shows the country-wide modal retail price of one kilogram of sugar, depicts prices rising from ₹40 per kg in May 2023 to ₹45 per kg as of May 5, 2025.

Ethanol blending adds to the price pressure by diverting a portion of the sugar. Government data show a rapid increase in the amount of sugarcane-based ethanol supplied for blending over the past decade, going from about 40 crore litres in FY14 to nearly 670 crore litres in FY24 **(Chart 3)**. The practice is lauded for its sustainability-related benefits as well as its potential to reduce India's dependence on oil imports.

The Centre has been implementing a long-term Ethanol Blending Programme (EBP) since the start of the 2000s, which allowed for a stagnant, then gradually increasing supply of ethanol. Initially, as a means of ensuring adequate availability of sugar for domestic consumption, the government banned the use of sugarcane juice, sugar syrup, and B-heavy molasses for ethanol production. This ban was lifted later, which explains the surge in supply in recent years.

A commensurate increase can be seen in the rate at which ethanol was blended with petrol over the years. **Chart 4** shows the ethanol blending rate over the last 10 years. From just over 1.5% in FY14, the rate of ethanol blending has surged to 20% in FY25. The ethanol blending ratio surged due to a combination of a consistent increase in sugar diverted for ethanol production and a drastic reduction in the goods and services tax imposed on ethanol meant for the EBP.

At the time of its inception, the EBP had set the target of 20% blending to be achieved by 2030. However, upon seeing the progress attained through lifting caps and taxes, standing at 15% blended ethanol in 2024, it was decided to advance the 20% target to 2025. The ratio was reached in March this year, leading to talks of a 30% target for the coming years.

With the availability of sugarcane impacted this year, reports show that the government is looking at grains to make up for the shortfall. Moreover, with sugar prices rising, the choice between food and fuel looms.

Bittersweet blend

The data were sourced from Lok Sabha Questions and Answers, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, and the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy

Chart 1: The chart shows the annual sugarcane production in India over the last ten years (in crore tonnes)

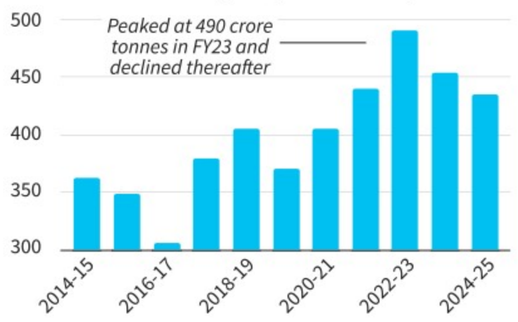


Chart 2: The country-wide modal retail price of 1 kg of sugar between May 2022 and May 2025 (in ₹ per kg)

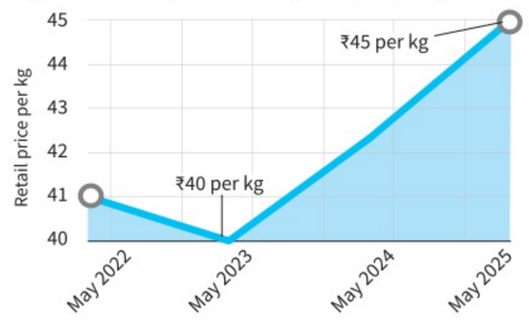


Chart 3: The chart shows the amount of sugarcane-based ethanol supplied for blending (in crore litres)

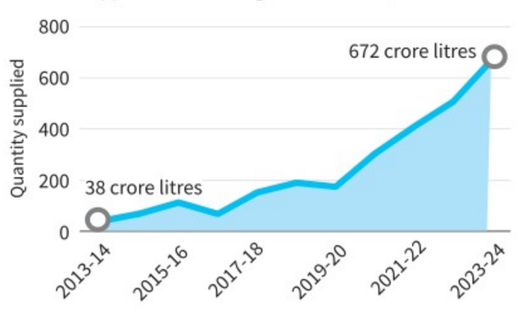
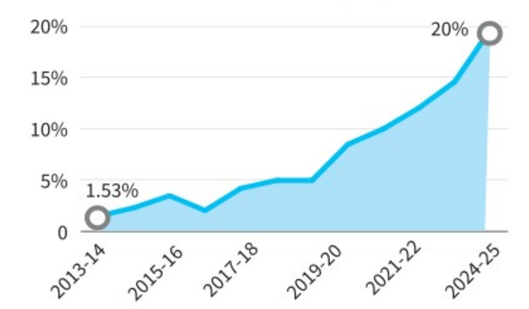


Chart 4: The chart shows the ethanol blending ratio achieved in India over the last decade (in %)



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 7, 1975

Chavan, Wilson back Mujib's plea to Pakistan

Kingston, May 6: At the Commonwealth summit meeting the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Y. B. Chavan, voiced strong support to Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's demand that Pakistan agree to an equitable division of the assets of undivided Pakistan with Bangladesh, and the repatriation of 63,000 Pakistani families whom Zulfikar Ali Bhutto has refused to take back even though they have opted for Pakistan.

Intervening in the final day's discussion on international affairs, Mr. Chavan told the heads of Government that both these issues had affected Bangladesh's efforts to cope with the problem of reconstructing its economy.

Even Prime Minister Wilson of Britain endorsed Bangladesh's stand with regard to the assets question by exclaiming, "It is without precedent for a nation to be denied its assets. Therefore I support it (Bangladesh's demand)".

In his statement Mr. Chavan also referred to the present situation in South-East Asia and said that what was necessary now was not a postmortem of what had happened there, but to see how best the Commonwealth and other countries could assist the war-ravaged countries of the region to recover and begin reconstruction. The Indo-China experience, he felt, should also enable the powers concerned to draw the proper lesson from it and not repeat the same mistake elsewhere of not recognising the forces of nationalism. One such area where the mistake could be repeated was the Indian Ocean, where the superpower rivalries and the construction of new and strengthening of old bases were going on.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 7, 1925

E. I. RY. electrification scheme

Calcutta, May 6: Mr. F. C. Lodge, special officer with the Railway Board, has issued a circular letter in connection with the electrification of the East Indian Railway from Bandel, in which he has invited the opinion of the suburban passengers and in the course of it, states that it is proposed to provide a service of electric trains from Bandel to the Terminus station in the vicinity of Lyons range via Sealdah, crossing the Hughly over the bridge at Bally. Passengers from Bandel will be able to change into the electric service at Bandel.

From Page One

States to conduct civil defence drills today

The Indian Army responded in a proportionate manner to unprovoked small arms in Kupwara, Baramulla, Poonch, Rajouri, Mendhar, Naushera, Sunderbani, and Akhnoor districts of Jammu and Kashmir, a statement said.

The drill will test the efficacy of the operationalisation of air-raid warning signs, crash blackout measures, camouflaging vital installations, evacuation plans, establishing hotline with the Indian Air Force, activating control rooms, firefighting and warden services and undertake cleaning of bunkers and trenches among others.

The Anantnag police in South Kashmir issued a public advisory that a mock drill will be conducted at 4 p.m. on Wednesday by the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF). "As part of the drill, sirens will be activated at various locations in Kashmir," the police said.

In Delhi, the mock exercise will be conducted at 55 locations from 4-6 p.m. The locations include residential buildings, government offices, markets and colleges. The Delhi Police beefed up security in the national Capital ahead of the scheduled mock drills with increased number of officials being deployed at tourist spots. Further, the police headquarters has now been equipped with the Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD) to transmit clear messages beyond a kilometre in case of an emergency, an official told *The Hindu*.

The South Central Railway said volunteers, instructors and associated personnel would "simulate a hostile attack scenario to evaluate emergency preparedness and inter-agency coordination" at Kacheguda (Hyderabad division), Raichur (Guntakal Division) and Aurangabad (Nanded Division) on May 7.

In Maharashtra, the drill will be conducted at more than a dozen locations, including Mumbai at 4 p.m.

India, U.K. conclude landmark trade deal

Further, whisky and gin tariffs are to be halved from the current 150% to 75% before reducing to 40% by year ten of the deal. Automotive tariffs will go from over 100% to 10% under a quota.

"Other goods with reduced tariffs, which can open markets and make trade cheaper for businesses and Indian consumers, include cosmetics, aerospace, lamb, medical devices, salmon, electrical machinery, soft drinks, chocolate and biscuits," the U.K. statement added.

The Indian government expects the deal to double the bilateral trade between the two countries – currently at about $60 billion – by 2030.

The FTA is expected to open up export opportunities for sectors such as textiles, marine products, leather, footwear, sports goods and toys, gems and jewellery, as well as other more industrial sectors such as engineering goods, auto parts and engines, and organic chemicals.

"Today Britain has agreed a landmark trade deal with India," Mr. Starmer announced on X.

In a relief for Indian workers temporarily in the U.K., the Double Contribution Convention signed between the two countries includes a provision wherein such Indian workers and their employers will be exempt from paying social security contributions in the U.K. for a period of three years.

(With inputs from Sriram Lakshman in London)

MLA, 3 others get jail in illegal mining case

The case took many twists and turns after the FIR was lodged in 2009. The accused moved the High Court and secured orders staying the probe against them. The investigating agency then appealed to the Division Bench and had the orders vacated. This resulted in prolonged legal battle.

Maoists kill deputy head of panchayat in Sukma

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

The Deputy Sarpanch of a village panchayat in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district has been murdered by Maoists, police officials said on Tuesday.

The incident occurred at Benpalli village in the Jagargunda police station limits around 3 p.m. on Monday, said Superintendent of Police (Sukma) Kiran S. Chavan.

A group of people believed to be Naxalites reportedly took away Deputy Sarpanch Muchaki Rama from his house; later, he was found murdered, the police said.

"We received information that Deputy Sarpanch Muchaki Rama of Tarlaguda village in the Jagargunda police limits was murdered by unknown Naxalites. The police team immediately left for Benpalli village and retrieved the body of the deceased. The police team is searching the spot. According to the initial investigation, the deceased was taken away from his house yesterday afternoon and murdered by Naxalites," he said.

At least nine civilians have been allegedly killed by Maoists this year in the Bastar division that comprises seven districts, including Sukma.

Centre plans revision of 'safe harbour' clause

I&B Ministry says it plans to revisit guidelines for intermediaries in a bid to to curb 'fake news'; the IT Act provision protects the platforms by not holding them liable for the user-generated content

Sobhana K. Nair
Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

> In order to check the menace of fake news, the due diligence for the intermediary platforms could be revisited requiring them to take appropriate steps to remove fake news from their platforms on their own
> **I&B MINISTRY IN REPLY TO JPC**

> There is a need to revisit the 'safe harbour' provision
> **ASHWINI VAISHNAW**
> Union I&B Minister in November 2024

In a bid to disincentivise "fake news" content, the government plans to revise the guidelines for intermediary platforms and revisit the "safe harbour" provisions that protect these platforms, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has, according to sources, said in reply to questions from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communication and Information Technology, headed by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey.

In the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack, the government has blocked dozens of YouTube channels citing their spread of fake news. While most of the impacted accounts are Pakistani, at least two Indian channels, one belonging to influencer Dr. Medusa and a YouTube news channel 4PM News, were taken down.

The parliamentary panel is scheduled to meet on Wednesday morning. In the written submission made ahead of the meeting, the I&B Ministry, as per sources, said: "In order to check the menace of fake news, the due diligence for the intermediary platforms could be revisited requiring them to take appropriate steps to remove fake news from their platforms on their own."

The intermediary platforms enjoy immunity from liability for content posted on their platforms by users under Section 79 of the Information Technology Act, 2000.

The provision provides a safe harbour for the intermediaries by not holding them liable for the user-generated content as long as they comply with guidelines issued by the Union government.

The government has repeatedly maintained that it plans to make the intermediary platforms more accountable, but has not taken any concrete step. While speaking on the occasion of National Press Day in November 2024, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw said that there was a need to revisit the "safe harbour" provision.

The I&B Ministry, meanwhile, said "self regulation" was the best way to address fake news. For now, it has ruled out bringing a new law to address "fake news" saying that it would require "broader consultation and consensus building" especially in view of provisions relating to the freedom of speech and expression in the Constitution.

The government feels that giving a statutory basis to the Fact Check Unit under the Press Information Bureau (PIB), as proposed in the amendments to IT Rules 2021 as above is necessary for checking fake news relating to its plans, programmes and initiatives.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is in the process of filing a special leave petition (SLP) against the judgment of Bombay High Court that struck down the Fact Check Unit's authority to eliminate safe harbour for content on social media platforms that the government has deemed to be misinformation.

Subramanian removed over impropriety, says Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday said the Narendra Modi government abruptly terminated K.V. Subramanian's tenure as India's Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) due to "embarrassing details" that have emerged in the public domain and "impropriety" committed by him.

At a press conference, Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate alleged that the Union Bank of India placed an order for two lakh copies of the book *India@100* authored by Mr. Subramanian at a cost of ₹7.25 crore.

Ms. Shrinate alleged the cost of this "blatant propaganda" was borne by the public exchequer because Mr. Subramanian, who had earlier served as the Chief Economic Adviser to the Union government, "justified every economic blunder and flawed policy of the government".

Mr. Subramanian had not reacted to the allegations yet. "The government has so far given no reason for this abrupt and rare sacking," Ms. Shrinate said. She asked if the Union Finance Ministry investigated whether the transaction constituted a conflict of interest or not.

Kharge urges PM to consult all political parties on the conduct of caste census

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Mallikarjun Kharge

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging the Union government to initiate consultations with all political parties on the conduct of the caste census and to adopt the Telangana model for designing its questionnaire and methodology.

In a May 5 letter, Mr. Kharge called for full transparency in the final report, stating that the socio-economic data of each caste must be placed in the public domain to ensure constitutionally guaranteed rights and track progress over successive censuses.

"The Union Home Ministry must draw upon the Telangana model - both the methodology adopted for finalising the questionnaire and the final set of questions asked," he wrote, stressing that nothing should be "concealed" in the final report.

Reiterating the Congress party's demand for the removal of the 50% ceiling on caste-based reservations, Mr. Kharge said that the limit, described as arbitrarily imposed, must be lifted through a constitutional amendment. Mr. Kharge said reservation laws of States need to be protected on the lines of those of Tamil Nadu, which has been protected under the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution since 1994. "It is abundantly clear that the arbitrarily imposed 50% ceiling on reservations for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes must be removed by a constitutional amendment," he said.

Mr. Kharge said the need to implement Article 15(5) of the Constitution, which enables reservations for SCs, STs and OBCs in private educational institutions. He cited the 364th Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth, and Sports - tabled on March 25 - which had recommended fresh legislation to operationalise this article.

Population-wise delimitation is fair; southern States' stand on the issue wrong: BJP ally

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) ally and Rajya Sabha member Upendra Kushwaha on Tuesday said Lok Sabha seats in States should be increased in proportion to the population of each State.

The southern States' stand that doing so would discriminate against the States that had followed population control policies was wrong, he said. It was aimed at "denying the rights" of other States, including Bihar, the head of the Rashtriya Lok Morcha, a constituent of the National Democratic Alliance in Bihar, said at a press conference here.

Stating that India's Constitution assigned the same electoral value to every vote, Mr. Kushwaha said it was the right of citizens in the Hindi-speaking States to be allocated Lok Sabha seats according to their numbers. "I will urge the Central government to not come under pressure from the southern States, and carry out a delimitation exercise on the basis of population," he said.

Upendra Kushwaha addresses a press conference in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

He said that from 1881 to 1951, the population in southern India had almost doubled, and its share in the country's population had grown from 22% to 26% in this period. The overall population share of the southern States was 25% in 1971, the last time delimitation was carried out, Mr. Kushwaha said, claiming that his figures were based on official data.

He said Bihar's share in the national population declined from 10.8% in 1881 to 8% in 1951. However, Bihar was not a separate region in 1881.

Mr. Kushwaha said that southern India had benefited in terms of its share of Lok Sabha seats due to its rising population at a time when population growth had been limited in Hindi-speaking States.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has assured the southern States that the Centre would ensure no injustice was meted out to them in the delimitation.

Idol stolen from Nagapattinam temple traced to the Netherlands

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Idol Wing CID of the Tamil Nadu Police have stopped the auction of an idol reported stolen from a temple in Nagapattinam 15 years ago.

An official release said unidentified persons stole the Kannappa Nayanar metal idol from the Arulmigu Agneeswaraswamy temple in Thirupugalur in 2010. A case was registered by the Thittachery police.

During the course of the investigation, the police received an input that the idol was kept for auction at the European Fine Art Exhibition, 2025, held in Maastricht in the Netherlands.

Acting on the input, investigators took up the matter with their counterparts in the Netherlands and officers of the Archaeological Survey of India to stop the auction.

Due to the timely intervention, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Netherlands, took custody of Kannappa Nayanar idol on March 23, 2025. Legal procedures have been initiated to repatriate the idol, the release said.

A police officer in the Idol Wing CID said the Kannappa Nayanar metal idol weighing 23 kg is 64 cm tall and 25 cm wide.

S. Vijaya Kumar, co-founder of India Pride, said efforts were on to trace two more bronze idols.

In a push towards transparency, SC publishes assets of 21 judges

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Twenty-one Supreme Court judges, including Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, have disclosed their financial assets and liabilities on the top court's website, sending a strong message to critics who blamed the judiciary for lack of transparency.

The near-midnight publication of the wealth and properties, both earned and inherited, of the judges and their family members on Monday incidentally came within hours of the court issuing a statement that a three-member inquiry committee had submitted its report on the discovery of half-burnt currency notes in the official residence of a High Court judge, Justice Yashwant Varma. The court had responded to allegations of opacity by moving towards transparency with regard to judges' assets and the Justice Varma controversy.

The list of assets of the 21 out of a total 33 serving judges of the court swings between the commonplace and affluence: home and car loans, a few pieces of jewellery, a house still under construction as retirement draws close, ancestral properties, and residential apartments in metros.

Chief Justice Khanna has listed a three-bedroom Delhi Development Authority (DDA) flat and a four-bedroom one with parking lots at the Commonwealth Games Village in the national capital. He has a share in an ancestral property acquired and developed by his grandfather several years before Partition. The top judge has investments worth over ₹55 lakh and no loans, a Life Insurance of India policy, and a 2015-model hatchback.

CJI-designate B.R. Gavai has a house inherited from his father in his native Amravati in Maharashtra besides apartments in Mumbai and New Delhi and agricultural lands.

The assets of Justices B.V. Nagarathna, J.K. Maheshwari, Dipankar Datta, Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Manoj Misra, Aravind Kumar, P.K. Mishra, S.C. Sharma, P.B. Varale, N. Kotiswar Singh, R. Mahadevan and Joymalya Bagchi have not been uploaded. The Supreme Court clarified that "statement of assets of other judges will be uploaded as and when the current statement of assets is received".

SC details 221 names approved for HCs

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has uploaded the entire details of 221 appointments approved by the Supreme Court Collegiums to State High Courts across the country during the tenures of former Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud and his successor and current Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna. The figures showed that the number of names drawn from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Most Backward and Backward communities were in single digits in both tenures.

APPEAL

I am 27 years old suffering from heart ailment and advised to undergo **Cardiac Catheterisation Test + Coronary Angiography Test + Tricuspid Valve Implant + ASD Device Closure** at The Madras Medical Mission, Chennai. I am living with my aged mother and two children without anyone's support. I am unable to meet the whole treatment cost which is around Rs.19,00,000/-. Please help me with your generous contribution. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/M.O/ NEFT Transfer & Google Pay (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C.No: 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT. Your e-mail ID is requested.

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E-Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com.

Website: WWW.womenswelfaresyndiate.org.

Glory

IAF to hold 'pre-planned' exercise in Rajasthan

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The Indian Air Force is set to conduct a 'pre-planned' two-day exercise on Wednesday and Thursday in Rajasthan and other areas close to the International Border with Pakistan, according to an IAF spokesperson. Incidentally, it coincides with the civil defence drills planned across the country on Wednesday.

A NOTAM (Notice To Airmen) was issued by the Airports Authority of India from 3.30 p.m. on Wednesday to 9.30 p.m. on Thursday. Responding to questions on the issue, the IAF spokesperson said, "The IAF is conducting a pre-planned routine training exercise."

The Union Home Ministry has announced a civil defence blackout drill, to be conducted across 244 civil defence districts across the country, on May 7. The drills are being conducted against the backdrop of tensions with Pakistan after the Pahalgam attack in which 26 people were killed.

CRPF seeks explanation from its first responder

Commandant Rajesh Kumar with a team of 22 people had rushed to the scene of massacre; eyewitnesses and survivors say security personnel reached the scene after more than an hour

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has sought an explanation from the officer who was the first from the security forces to reach the Baisaran meadow in Pahalgam, the spot where 26 people were killed by terrorists on April 22.

CRPF Director-General G.P. Singh sought an explanation from Commandant Rajesh Kumar of the 116 battalion of the CRPF which was deployed at a camp 7 km away.

Mr. Kumar, with a 22-strong team, had rushed to the scene of attack after being alerted to the massacre by the pony operators in the area. They rescued three or four injured victims.

There were no security personnel at the meadow during the attack.

Four to six terrorists went on a firing spree for 25 to 30 minutes at the meadow, which was fenced from all sides. They later fled the scene. Eyewitnesses and survivors said that security personnel reached the scene after more than an hour.

Close watch: CRPF personnel keeping guard in Srinagar on Tuesday amid a high alert after the Pahalgam attack. IMRAN NISSAR

At an all-party meeting on April 24, a CRPF official informed MPs that the meadow was accessible only by foot or on pony and it took the CRPF personnel around one hour to reach the spot.

The CRPF had said that there is no permanent deployment of the force in the area where the attack took place, adding that tourists generally frequent the area during the Amarnath Yatra period, set to commence on July 3 and conclude on August 9 this year.

The CRPF official added that other security forces reached the spot after more than an hour and a half.

"The Commandant has been asked to explain the precautions taken, if any, to secure the route. A reply is awaited and future course of action will depend on that," said a CRPF official.

Under the unified command structure in the Union Territory, the CRPF works on the aid and advice of the J&K Police.

The all-party meeting was informed by the government that Baisaran was opened to public without police permission.

As reported by *The Hindu*, a J&K official said that the Baisaran meadow is open to the public throughout the year and is not among the regulated security places in the valley.

A contract to run the tourist site was handed over to a Bijbehara resident in August 2024 for ₹3 crore.

Security Council meeting ends without statement; nations seek de-escalation

Press Trust of India
NEW YORK

Member nations of the United Nations Security Council are learnt to have posed tough questions to Pakistan in a discussion on the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people.

The UNSC refused to issue a statement following the meeting, which was held in a consultative room rather than the main hall, effectively dismissing Pakistan's attempt to secure a favourable position from the top UN body. There was broad condemnation of the terrorist attack and the need to fix accountability for it, sources said after the informal session.

"The UN Security Council members raised tough questions for Pakistan at its informal session. Pakistan was advised to sort out the issues bilaterally with India," a source said.

At the deliberations, the UNSC discussed the rising tensions between India and Pakistan, and several envoys called for de-escalation.

Ambassador Evangelos C. Sekeris described the meeting as productive and helpful. AP

Though the 15-member UNSC did not issue a statement, Pakistan said its own objectives had been "largely served".

Coming out of the meeting, the Assistant Secretary-General for the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, Khaled Mohamed Khiari of Tunisia, said there had been a call for "dialogue and peaceful resolution of the conflict". He said the "situation is volatile".

Ambassador Evangelos Sekeris, a Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations and the current UNSC President, described it as a "productive meeting, helpful".

"We hope for de-escalation," a Russian diplomat said.

'Chenab flow altered'

Separately, Pakistan on Tuesday accused India of altering the flow of the Chenab, one of three rivers placed under Pakistan's control under the currently suspended Indus Waters Treaty. The Chenab originates in India.

"We have witnessed changes in the river [Chenab] which are not natural at all," Kazim Pirzada, Irrigation Minister for Punjab province, said.

The province of Punjab, bordering India and home to nearly half of Pakistan's 240 million citizens, is the country's agricultural heartland, and "the majority impact will be felt in areas which have fewer alternative water routes", Mr. Pirzada warned.

"One day, the river had normal inflow, and the next day, it was greatly reduced," he added.

(With inputs from AFP)

Post terror hit, Gulmarg's 'gondolas' face headwinds

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

The number of tourists taking the "gondola" ride, the world's second highest cable car service in Gulmarg that acts as a barometer of tourism in Kashmir, has plummeted after the Pahalgam terror attack.

Over 40,000 cancellations in two weeks have resulted in a loss of around ₹15 crore to the Jammu and Kashmir Cable Car Corporation so far. These days, the noisy red and yellow airway cabins of the Gondola Park close ahead of the scheduled timing of 6.30-7 p.m. Officials said the popular ropeway shut by or before 5 p.m. because of cancellations. Just a month ago, the gondola ride, which goes up from 8,694 feet to 13,780 feet in altitude, was sold out completely.

"Footfall has dropped significantly. We get around 1,000 tourists against an average of 4,000 to 5,000 per day. There is a fall of 75%," Syed Qamar Sajjad, Managing Director of the J&K Cable Car Corporation, told *The Hindu*.

Eager wait

"We expect the gondola rides to go up from the second and third week of May. Many who have booked their rides for later in May have not completely cancelled it. This gives us hope that tourists are sticking to their scheduled trip to Kashmir," he said.

Gulmarg is one of few popular destinations of Kashmir that is close to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, less than five kilometres from the Line of Control (LoC). Officials said the Army had fortified security of the tourist hotspot and carried out drills recently to safeguard the gondolas from any terror threat.

Drop in visitors: Officials say the gondola rides shut early by 5 p.m. because of cancellations. IMRAN NISSAR

BJP slams Kharge's remarks on PM's cancelled J&K trip

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Tuesday launched a scathing attack on Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, demanding an unconditional apology for his controversial remarks about Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Mr. Kharge had alleged in Ranchi that the Prime Minister cancelled his visit to Kashmir after receiving an intelligence report three days before the Pahalgam terror attack.

BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad condemned Mr. Kharge's statements as "irresponsible and unfortunate", adding that while the Congress leader claimed to stand for the nation, his comments undermined national security. "At such a critical juncture, to make baseless allegations about the Prime Minister, especially concerning the Pahalgam terror attack, is highly unfortunate and damaging," Mr. Prasad said.

'Toxic rhetoric'

BJP spokesperson C.R. Kesavan accused Mr. Kharge of making "treacherous" remarks, likening him to the historic figure Mir Jafar, a term used to describe someone who betrays their country. "His unfounded and toxic rhetoric against the Prime Minister is deplorable and cannot be forgiven," Mr. Kesavan said.

This tirade from the ruling party follows controversial statements by other Congress leaders, including Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and former Punjab Minister Charanjit Singh Channi.

The BJP has accused the Congress of consistently issuing statements that undermine the Indian defence forces and weaken the country's security posture.

Rahul Gandhi meets family of slain Navy officer

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday visited the home of Navy Lieutenant Vinay Narwal, who was among the 26 people killed in the Pahalgam attack, in Karnal of Haryana.

Mr. Gandhi said the entire country, along with the victims, was waiting for justice. In a post on his X handle after the visit, he wrote that he had met the bereaved family members and consoled them.

"Their courage and bravery even in the face of immense grief is a message for the country – we have to remain united," it read.

Mr. Gandhi said the government had the full support of the Opposition.

Discussion on modern workforce and the future of the workplace at *The Hindu* Huddle

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The forces shaping work and the workplace have changed dramatically over the past few years.

While technological advances have transformed roles, making some easier and putting others at risk, unprecedented events such as the COVID-19 pandemic have effectively changed our imagination of the workplace. Political shifts in some regions have fuelled an anti-DEI (diversity, equity, inclusion) movement. What then is the future of work and of the workplace? In a world that is adopting more and more digital technologies, which will be the most sought-after skills? In a post-pandemic world, is a hybrid model here to stay?

The Hindu Huddle 2025 is presented by Sami-Sabinsa Group

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These are some of the questions that will be explored during the *The Hindu* Huddle panel discussion titled "Let's talk work: the future of the workplace".

The participants will be K. Ganesh, serial entrepreneur and partner, Growthstory; Hemant Malik, Wholetime Director and Divisional Chief Executive - Foods, ITC; Jayen Mehta, Managing Director, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation; and Suparna Mitra, Chief Executive Officer, Watches and Wearables Division, Titan.

The conversation will be moderated by L.V. Navaneeth, CEO, The Hindu Group. The Huddle will be held in Bengaluru on May 9 and 10.

The panellists will throw light on how business models, employee and customer expectations, and technology are shaping the modern workforce and determining its priorities.

They will touch upon key contemporary subjects such as AI integration, the evolving role of hybrid work, the nature of the gig economy, and the importance of upskilling and reskilling. They will examine commitments to ESG (environmental, social and governance) goals, employee well-being, and organisational DEI through the lens of sustainable business goals and stakeholder expectations.

If you have any questions that you would like the moderator to ask the panellists, write to huddle@thehindu.co.in

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क्रमांक: ए.सी.ई./बी.टी.पी/निविदा/2025–26/डी–170 दिनांक 23-4-25
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अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता
सानिवि संभाग भरतपुर

Govt. amends satellite Internet service rules

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Even as the Elon Musk-owned satellite Internet service Starlink awaits clearances to operate in India, the Department of Telecommunications this week issued further amendments to the unified licence (UL) and global mobile personal communications by satellite (GMPCS) authorisation.

Satellite Internet services need the authorisation to offer services in India. The amendments come in the wake of the Pahalgam attack in Kashmir.

Many of the terms, issued through a circular by the DoT, echo existing requirements for all telecom licensees – such as enabling surveillance of users' web traffic, a requirement already in place for telecom operators and home broadband providers. But they come as an additional compliance burden at a crucial time, especially as Starlink faces a prolonged delay in obtaining the authorisation as well as the satellite spectrum it needs to commence services.

A key requirement may undermine Starlink's allure to some of its customers in India.

While satellite terminals sold abroad must be disabled on Indian soil, the amendments require that Indian-purchased terminals be disabled in other countries.

Another unique requirement is that the terminals must eventually be manufactured in India, within a five-year span.

"The intent behind mandating geofencing is to prevent cross-border signal spillover, especially in sensitive regions, and to ensure that satellite connectivity can be monitored, intercepted, and governed in India," Mahwash Fatima, a public policy manager at the tech policy firm The Quantum Hub told *The Hindu*.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
INFORMATION WANTED

This is the Photograph of **Ramji Chowdhury,** Father's Name : **Lt. Jaddu Chowdhury**, of 19, Coal Berth Bharnagarh, PS : South Port Kolkata-700043. W.B., who has been missing since : 09.10.2024, Place of Missing - Residence. A missing diary was lodged at South Port P.S G.D. Entry No-1457. Dated : 24.11.2024 & South Port PS Case No. 12, Dated : 31.01.2025 U/S 3(5)/140(3)/351(2)BNS. Description of this missing person is : **Age -52** Years, **Height-** 5 Feet 8 Inch, **Wearing Apparels at the time of Missing -** White Check Shirt and Navy Blue Pant. Face : Ovel. If the missing subject is traced or any information is received please contact with O/C MPS/D.D. Lalbazar (033-2250-5153) & Email Id : ocmpsdd@gmail.com **ICA-D964 (2)/2025**

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
INFORMATION WANTED

This is the Photograph of **Tagar Halder,** Father's Name : **Avijit Halder**, of Vill : Balarampur PS : tehatta Dist.: Nadia, W.B., who has been missing : Since 2011, Place of Missing - Delhi. Description of this missing person is : **Age -31** Years, **Height-** 4 Feet 8 Inch, **Language -** Bengali. Please Contact officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata - 700 027, Ph. No. - 033-2450-6120 **ICA-D963 (3)/2025**

Government of Punjab
Municipal Corporation, Amritsar, Dept. of Local Govt.
Punjab Municipal Services Improvement Project (PMSIP) - P170811
(Funded by WB & AIIB)
No. S.E.(civil)/WB/07 Dated: 28.04.2025
The department of Municipal Corporation Amritsar Invites online double bids for "Digitization of official records of MC Amritsar to ensure robust record keeping and easy availability of record." (RFB No. INMCA-489534-NC-RFB)" (1st time) as per schedule given below: -
Closing date & time: 29.05.2025 up to 03:00 PM
For details log on to: https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
Note: Detail of works/goods, other terms & conditions & tender documents any corrigendum/addendum to the tender notice shall be published on above website only.
Superintending Engineer
Municipal Corporation,
Amritsar.
NA/12/29711/2023/44115

INBRIEF

Cashless treatment scheme for road accident victims

Road accident victims all over India will be entitled to cashless treatment for up to ₹1.5 lakh for the first seven days at designated hospitals, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways notified on Tuesday. According to a Gazette notification, the Cashless Treatment of Road Accident Victims Scheme, 2025 has come into force from May 5. The scheme is aimed at reducing the number of deaths arising from road accidents every year due to delay in timely medical intervention. The National Health Authority shall be the implementing agency for the programme. PTI

Farmers' representative expelled from ICAR bodies

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has expelled Varanasi-based farmer Venugopal Badaravada from the Governing Body (GB) and General Body of ICAR Society. Mr. Badaravada, a farmers' representative on both panels, had questioned the genome-edited seeds developed by the ICAR recently and had also alleged that ICAR appointments are not done in a transparent manner. He said he has approached the Prime Minister against the decision to remove him from these bodies. In the expulsion order, ICARGoverning Body member secretary Sanjay Garg said that Mr. Badaravada had been sending mails levelling baseless allegations against Union government authorities, and acting against the interest of the organisation.

PM speaks to Emir of Qatar as India steps up outreach

Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani expresses full support to India's fight against terrorism and all actions to bring the perpetrators of Pahalgam attack to justice; New Delhi rejects OIC statement as absurd

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Tuesday stepped up its outreach to West Asia amid tensions with Pakistan.

While Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will meet Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi in Delhi on Wednesday.

The moves came even as the Organisation for Islamic Cooperation Mission at the United Nations in New York issued a statement expressing concern about the "deteriorating security environment" in South Asia, and criticising India for "hostile rhetoric", while condemning the terror attack in Pahalgam.

In a sharp response to the OIC statement, which had also expressed support for Pakistan and called for Kashmiri "self-determination", the External Affairs Ministry said the statement had been issued at the behest of Pakistan, and called it "absurd".

The Ministry rejected any interference by the 57-nation grouping in India's "internal affairs"

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani in New Delhi in February. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

In a statement, the Ministry said the Emir of Qatar had conveyed condolences for the victims of the attack and "expressed full support in India's fight against terrorism and all its actions to bring the perpetrators to justice".

The statement of support to India came even as Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani met with visiting Pakistani Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi in Doha. A statement released by the Qatari PMO said that they had discussed "bilateral cooperation relations and ways to support and develop them, along with several issues of joint interest".

Iran FM's visit

The External Affairs Ministry announced that the Iranian Foreign Minister would arrive in Delhi on Wednesday afternoon. He will hold talks with Mr. Jaishankar on Thursday, and co-chair the Joint Commission Meeting on economic issues. He will also call on President Droupadi Murmu during his visit, indicating the importance South Block is giving to the visit.

However, the government is unlikely to take up Mr. Araghchi's offer to mediate between Iran's two "brotherly neighbours" India and Pakistan. During a visit to Islamabad on Monday, the Iranian Foreign Minister, who met with Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, President Asif Ali Zardari, and Army chief General Asim Munir, told reporters that his mission in the region was to "get a clear understanding of the current situation".

The engagement with Iran and Qatar follows Mr. Modi's conversations with leaders of Saudi Arabia, Iran, and the UAE in the aftermath of the Pahalgam attack.

However, as India began preparations and drills for a possible military strike on Pakistan, in response to the attack, many countries, including Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, along with the U.K., the U.S., and the European Union, had also issued statement calling for de-escalation and resolving issues through dialogue and diplomacy, which New Delhi has not responded to. New Delhi did not respond to a statement by Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim on Tuesday calling for an "independent and transparent investigation" into the attacks.

Early monsoon? Rains over Nicobar islands by May 13

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

It usually takes about 10 days for the system to reach Kerala from the Nicobar islands.

The southwest monsoon system is expected to advance into the south Andaman Sea, some parts of the southeast Bay of Bengal, and Nicobar islands around May 13, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Tuesday. This is nearly a week earlier than the normal onset date of May 20 and "relatively unusual", a senior meteorologist told *The Hindu* on Tuesday.

The normal onset date of the monsoon over Kerala is June 1, usually taking about 10 days for the system to reach the State from the Nicobar islands. "Early arrival over Nicobar doesn't necessarily mean that the monsoon will reach Kerala early," said D Sivananda Pai, senior meteorologist, IMD. "May 13 is a little unusual but it only indicates that the cross-equatorial flow of monsoon has strengthened. There have been instances when the monsoon reached Kerala on May 15."

He said strong cross-equatorial flow could indicate the development of a cyclone, which is typical in the month before the monsoon onset.

The monsoon system divides into two branches: the Bay of Bengal branch and the Arabian Sea branch following its arrival in the Bay of Bengal region. It's the arrival of the Arabian sea branch in Kerala that heralds the onset of the monsoon over mainland India. The Bay of Bengal branch sets in within a week, over Northeast India.

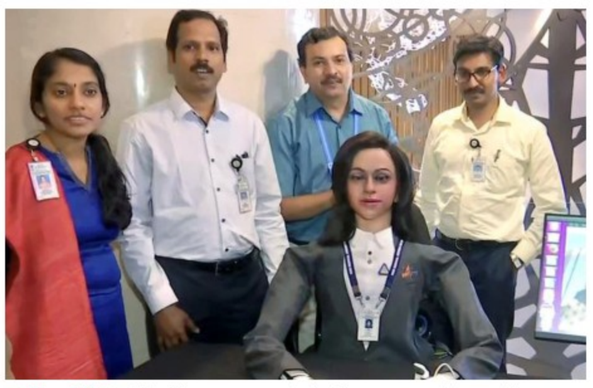
The IMD has a dedicated monsoon model for forecasting the onset date over Kerala and is expected to announce it mid-May. Last month, the IMD said India is likely to receive "above normal" monsoon rainfall, or 5% more than the historical average of 87 cm. Were this to bear out, it would be a second year of "above normal" rainfall. Last year, India received 8% more than the historical average.

Gaganyaan's manned mission likely in first quarter of 2027: ISRO chief

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) expects the Gaganyaan mission to launch Indian astronauts into space to take place in the first quarter of 2027, V. Narayanan, Chairman, ISRO, said at a press conference on Tuesday.

While it will be preceded by three test launches (two uncrewed and one with a robot), this is the latest extension of the launch date, in this most anticipated of ISRO's missions. The crewed mission was initially proposed for 2022 but kept being pushed further, with early 2027 being the latest timeline.



Taking flight: The first uncrewed mission expected later this year will have a robot called Vyom-mitra on board. ANI

Delay due to pandemic

Union Minister of State for Space Jitendra Singh and Mr. Narayanan said the delays had been caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the tests required to train astronauts, extra test flights of the launch vehicle, and a revamped Gaganyaan programme under which eight missions, both crewed and uncrewed, would be executed till 2028.

"There are thousands of components and at least 10 lakh lines of code that need to be written for ensuring that the crew in the launch vehicle is safe, can escape in case of an emergency, [and] they can be brought back safely to earth after the mission is completed," Mr. Narayanan said.

"About 10,000 people working for four-five years have to be credited with the progress so far."

Mr. Narayanan also said the Axiom-4 private space mission to carry Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla to the International Space Station was scheduled for the first week of June. Officially, this launch, according to Axiom, is scheduled for May 29. India has paid ₹550 crore to Axiom for taking the first Indian astronaut to space after Rakesh Sharma's journey of 1984.

"This mission will allow Mr. Shukla to conduct several missions as well as gain extremely valuable experience, which will be useful to us," he said.

For the first uncrewed mission expected later this year, with a robot called Vyom-mitra on board, all propulsion systems for the human-rated launch vehicle are ready, and about 90% of the necessary infrastructure and tests are also ready.

'10 cr. pages of historic documents digitised'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Archives of India (NAI) has digitised more than 10 crore pages of historic documents. Making the announcement, Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said the digitisation project was taken up to make historic documents in possession of the NAI more accessible to the public.

"Do revisit our glorious past, that has been digitally documented one page at a time, with this mega effort to make Bharat's archival heritage closer to the public than ever before," he said.

In a post on X, Mr. Shekhawat said the portal Abhilekh Patal has had 1,49,487 unique visitors, and 29,507 registered users.

Farmers protest U.K. trade deal saying it's a threat to agriculture and MSMEs

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Farmers' organisations have protested against the signing of the Free Trade Agreement between India and the United Kingdom, pointing out that the treaty was signed despite opposition from farmers, fish workers and cattle farmers.

Similar free trade agreements in the past have failed Indian farmers and small industries, the farmers say. ANI

Ashok Dhawale, Samyukt Kisan Morcha core committee member and All India Kisan Sabha president, said that as per statements from both governments, products from the U.K. such as lamb, salmon, soft drinks, chocolate, biscuits, medical devices, cosmetics, electrical machinery, and aerospace equipment would be dumped into Indian markets without any restrictions, given the slashed tariffs. "This will act against the interest of farmers, fish workers and micro, small and medium enterprises that are engaged in food processing. In the past, all such free trade agreements, both bilateral and multilateral, have failed the Indian farmers and small industries," he said.

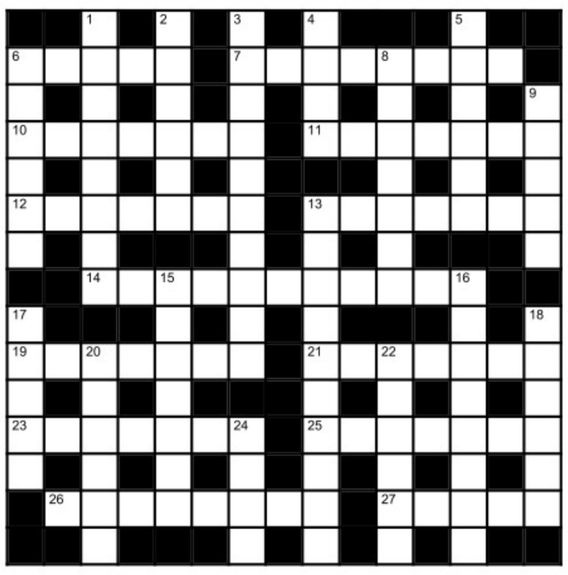
He said the present treaty would deepen the crisis in India's agricultural and manufacturing sectors. "Such treaties are imposed on the people without any parliamentary scrutiny. The Central government is paving the way for yet another imperialist rule on the country," he said.

TH CROSSWORD + 14478

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

6 Cover should end crime (5)
7 I think it's possible - yes, a raid turned things around (1,4,3)
10 Cut in and oppose drink (7)
11 Entry restricted decay means to execute (7)
12 Mostly wind-protected - loss for big figures (7)
13 Rambling report about yours truly, a pantomime character (7)
14 Talk about different line of linked communication (5,6)
19 Drink a drop of gin with everyone and he used to paint (7)
21 One from Southern Europe gets hold of bottle opener and tumbler (7)
23 Noise online persuaded one to get involved (5,2)
25 Global chess body rejected formality in structure (7)
26 Fast and furious, if centre is shifted (8)
27 Plant hoarding gold painted creamy white (5)

Down

1 Automaker starts with computer aided design initially - later licenses all cars (8)
2 Parties live - an issue comes up (6)
3 Face-covered apparition is local (10)
4 Rising insect bite (4)
5 Talk of British accepting a bet (6)
6 Boil and extract the flavour in two short months (6)
8 Promise new senate full of Republicans (7)
9 Contests haven't started, so escapes (5)
13 Never place foreign currency (10)
15 Quit playing with a group (7)
16 Teacher not to get up if you talk nonstop (6,2)
17 20 crossover first cross (5)
18 Scheming to get support, is ruthless (6)
20 A representative before or current (6)
22 Dried fruit is getting wet (6)
24 Bananas amaze as they grow (4)

SUDOKU

3			1					
		2		6			4	1
	8							5
2			4		6		5	
5			9		8			6
	1		7		3			8
7							2	
4	3			7		8		
					1			7

No.SS6512 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

	B	E	Y	O	N	D	M	E	A	S	U	R	E	
B		N		R		E		N		C		O		A
L	Y	D	I	A		M	A	P	L	E	L	E	A	F
U		I		N		I		A		N		D		T
N	A	V	I	G	A	T	E	S		T	H	E	M	E
D		E		E				S				E		R
E	C	S	T	A	S	Y		A	L	B	E	R	T	A
R				D		E		N		O				F
B	I	G	D	E	A	L		T	U	N	I	S	I	A
U		Y				L				V		E		S
S	O	M	M	E		O	S	T	E	O	P	A	T	H
S		N		R		W		E		Y		B		I
E	M	A	N	A	T	I	O	N		A	M	I	G	O
S		S		T		N		O		G		R		N
	A	T	L	O	G	G	E	R	H	E	A	D	S	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	8	3	6	5	4	2	7	9
2	5	7	8	9	1	3	6	4
9	4	6	7	2	3	1	5	8
4	3	1	5	8	6	7	9	2
7	6	9	3	4	2	5	8	1
5	2	8	9	1	7	4	3	6
6	9	4	1	3	5	8	2	7
8	1	5	2	7	9	6	4	3
3	7	2	4	6	8	9	1	5

FAITH

Parasara Bhattar's prayer

In sloka four of his Sri Guna Ratna Kosa, Parasara Bhattar refers to Lord Ranganatha as Murari. He says this Murari is guided in His actions by the signals He gets from Mahalakshmi. There are many kinds of *cetanas* and *acetanas*, each with a different set of needs, elaborated T.A.K. Srinivasacharya in a discourse. Lord Ranganatha has to keep all these different conditions (*taratamya)* in mind, when He creates. He needs some pointers when it comes to creating, keeping in mind these differences. Here it is the Goddess who guides Him with mere movements of Her eyebrows. Parasara Bhattar speaks of the waves of nectar (*amruta laharee*), which are nothing but the merciful glances that She directs towards Her devotees.

Slokas five and six of Sri Guna Ratna Kosa are composed in *naichya bhava*. Here Parasara Bhattar says he is unqualified to sing of Goddess Ranganayaki of Srirangam. "Even Brahma has confessed to his inability to praise You," points out Parasara Bhattar. And yet, he has ventured to praise Her, in the hope that such praise will confer some auspiciousness on his words. The verse shows the utter humility of Parasara Bhattar. In the seventh sloka, he prays to the Goddess to bestow Her grace on his work, so that it is majestic, and meaningful. He continues the same prayer in the eighth sloka. He prays that the work he is now going to embark on, namely, praising Goddess Ranganayaki of Srirangam, should be without any defects and should have all literary merits. In the ninth sloka, he addresses Lord Ranganatha, requesting His attention to his (Parasara Bhattar's) work on His Consort – Goddess Ranganayaki.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	80,641	-0.91
US Dollar	84.35	-0.05
Gold	99,750	2.46
Brent oil	62.34	3.46

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2354.00	-101.50
Adani Ports	1320.80	-26.30
Apollo Hosp	7009.00	35.00
Asian Paints	2418.00	-18.90
Axis Bank	1161.40	-11.80
Bajaj Auto	7945.50	25.00
Bajaj Finserv	2035.80	9.60
Bajaj Finance	8797.50	-134.50
Bharat Elec	310.50	-4.80
Bharti Airtel	1901.00	35.00
Cipla	1511.40	-31.50
Coal India	378.25	-7.35
Dr Reddys Lab	1160.40	-10.90
Eicher Motors	5515.00	54.50
Eternal Ltd.	232.64	-7.26
Grasim Ind	2728.70	-26.40
HCL Tech	1579.10	10.50
HDFC Bank	1931.70	-5.10
HDFC Life	722.60	-16.30
Hero MotoCorp	3872.60	105.00
Hindalco	630.05	-3.35
Hind Unilever	2381.80	33.20
ICICI Bank	1431.60	2.20
IndusInd Bank	831.80	-14.95
Infosys	1511.50	2.90
ITC	435.55	-1.40
Jio Financial Servic-es Ltd.	251.20	-9.40
JSW Steel	967.50	12.00
Kotak Bank	2074.00	-10.90
L&T	3334.00	3.80
M&M	3068.40	46.90
Maruti Suzuki	12581.00	123.00
NestleIndia	2356.50	28.30
NTPC	341.80	-6.80
ONGC	237.00	-2.20
PowerGrid Corp	307.60	-0.60
Reliance Ind	1420.90	-10.40
SBI Life	1726.00	-43.90
State Bank	774.10	-15.90
Shriram Finance Ltd.	623.45	-5.40
Sun Pharma	1819.10	-17.50
TataConsumerPro-duct	1155.30	-6.20
Tata Motors	648.20	-13.35
Tata Steel	144.44	2.36
TCS	3460.00	5.70
Tech Mahindra	1496.20	1.60
Titan	3299.30	-22.50
Trent Ltd.	5224.00	-146.50
UltraTech Cement	11693.00	23.00
Wipro	241.19	-2.38

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on May 06

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	84.23	84.55
Euro	95.34	95.71
British Pound	112.28	112.71
Japanese Yen (100)	58.84	59.07
Chinese Yuan	11.67	11.72
Swiss Franc	102.01	102.40
Singapore Dollar	65.28	65.54
Canadian Dollar	60.95	61.19
Malaysian Ringitt	19.88	20.00
Australian Dollar	54.36	54.57

Source:Indian Bank

ReNew gets $100 millon

ReNew Energy Global Plc said it has secured an investment of about $100 million from British International Investment.

Industry upbeat as India-U.K. ink FTA

Sectors that are set to benefit include textiles and apparel, leather and footwear, gems and jewellery, pharma, agriculture; deal is expected to create large opportunities for Indian firms, significantly boost bilateral trade, attract key investments

Lalatendu Mishra
Soundariya Preetha M.
MUMBAI/COIMBATORE

> The India-U.K. Free Trade Agreement is not just a trade pact—it's a bridge to shared prosperity.
> **HARSHA VARDHAN AGARWAL,** President, FICCI

Amid the trade war and global uncertainties, the India-U.K. Free Trade agreement, signed on Tuesday, would create large opportunities for Indian companies, significantly boost bilateral trade, attract strategic investments, and further integrate Indian businesses into the global value chain, said trade organisations and industry leaders.

The sectors which are set to benefit include textiles and apparel, leather and footwear, gems and jewellery, pharmaceuticals, agriculture and processed foods to name a few.

"The timely agreement will help advance a comprehensive strategic partnership between India and the U.K., steering bilateral trade towards the ambitious target of USD 100 billion by 2030," said CII President Sanjiv Puri.

"This agreement comes at a pivotal time when India is positioning itself as a resilient and reliable trade partner in a rapidly evolving global landscape," said the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) president S.C. Ralhan.

Sudarshan Venu, MD, TVS Motor Company said, "It creates large opportunities for Indian companies like ours to expand further and access new markets. Our British brand Norton will launch later this year and this agreement will help us scale faster and leverage common supply chains." Harsha Vardhan Agarwal, President, FICCI said, "The India-U.K. Free Trade Agreement is not just a trade pact–it's a bridge to shared prosperity. It brings a new momentum to sectors like FMCG, healthcare, and innovation-driven enterprises.

Mayank Jain, Partner, Khaitan & Co., said, "This landmark agreement marks a significant step in reducing trade barriers between the world's fifth and sixth largest economies."

Boost for textiles

The India-U.K. Free Trade Agreement will strengthen the labour-intensive Indian textile and apparel sector, positioning India as a major textile hub, according to garment exporters.

K.M. Subramanian, president of the Tiruppur Exporters Association, said almost 9% of Indian knitwear exports are to the U.K. and this is likely to touch 20% after the FTA.

According to A. Sakthivel, vice chairman of the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), by unlocking new export opportunities, reducing trade barriers, and enabling greater access to the U.K. market, this agreement promises to empower exporters across the textile value chain.

AEPC chairman Sudhir Sekhri said the FTA will open up huge opportunities for garment exporters.

(With inputs from TCA Sharad Raghavan in New Delhi)

Sumitomo Mitsui likely to acquire 51% stake in Yes Bank

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

It may be recalled that the Centre had to rope in the SBI to recapitalise Yes Bank.

Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation is likely to pick up 51% stake in Yes Bank from the scam-hit bank's shareholders.

The Japanese bank is reportedly in talks with several key equity holders including the State Bank of India (SBI), which controls 24% stake in the bank. SBI did not offer any comment. It may be recalled that the Central Government had to rope in the SBI to recapitalise Yes Bank, which was on the verge of collapse owing to mismanagement by its erstwhile promoter.

Sumitomo Mitsui Bank plans to acquire 25% stake from the SBI and others and then make the mandatory open offer to acquire additional 26% stake from public shareholders as per SEBI norms, according to people familiar with the development.

Bank of Baroda Q4 net profit rises 3% to ₹5,048 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Bank of Baroda reported 3% growth in standalone net profit at ₹5,048 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2025, compared with ₹4,886 crore in the year-ago period due to fall in net interest income (NII) and reduction in net interest margin (NIM).

NII during the quarter fell 6.6% to ₹11,020 crore from ₹11,793 crore a year ago. This led the bank's stock to plunge over 10% on the BSE on Tuesday.

Global NIM during the quarter reduced to 2.86% from 3.27% in the year earlier. The board has recommended a dividend of ₹8.35 per share.

India's services sector growth improves marginally in April

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The improved activity was driven by a surge in new orders, notably from the U.S.

India's service sector activity grew marginally in April compared with the previous month, according to a survey of private sector companies.

The improved activity was driven by a surge in new orders, notably from the U.S., and an easing of cost pressures.

The HSBC India Services PMI Business Activity Index, calculated based on a single question of how the level of business activity compares with the situation the month before, came in at 58.7 in April, up from 58.5 in March.

This, HSBC India said in its report, continued to remain higher than India's long-term average of 54.2.

"The overall expansion in output was fuelled by a significant rise in new business intakes, the joint-best in eight months, with many firms noting favourable demand conditions and successful marketing efforts," the report said.

Orders placed with Indian companies originated in Asia, Europe, the Middle East and with the U.S. "particularly cited as sources of strength".

INBRIEF

'Union Bank probing lapses in book procurement'

Union Bank of India has informed the stock exchanges that it is probing certain lapses in procurement of books by the bank for the purpose of gifting and supplying to its various branches. The exchanges had sought a clarification from the bank following a report that the bank had purchased about two lakh copies of a book titled 'India@100' authored by former Chief Economic Advisor Krishnamurthy V. Subramanian, worth ₹7.25 crore. A section of employees had flagged it and a general manager who had placed the order had reportedly been placed under suspension.

Goyal reiterates India will retaliate against carbon tax

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal once again warned that India would retaliate with taxes of its own if Europe goes ahead with its Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) plan. The CBAM is basically a mechanism through which European countries would impose a carbon tax on select imports. "If they put in a carbon tax, we will retaliate," Mr. Goyal said at the 2025 Columbia India Energy Dialogue, hosted by Columbia University's Center on Global Energy Policy. "They will put it on products that will hurt their economy and the retaliation will be on products which will further hurt their economy."

IMF projects India to become fourth largest economy in '25

The International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s April Outlook held that India would surpass Japan to become the fourth largest economy. The global financial institution tasked to promote economic stability estimates India's gross domestic product, at current prices, is expected to scale about $4,187.02 billion in 2025. This would be marginally higher than its nearest peer Japan estimated to reach $4,186.43 billion. United States (with a GDP of $30,507.22 billion), China ($19,231.71) and Germany ($4,744.8 billion) continue being the three largest economies globally in the same order.

MCA probes Gensol, BluSmart Mobility

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

BluSmart electric cars at a charging station in Gurugram.

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has started an investigation into the functioning of both BluSmart Mobility and Gensol Engineering, sources aware of the development told *The Hindu*.

The investigation is being undertaken under the powers bestowed on the Union government under Section 210 of the Companies Act 2013.

"The Ministry of Corporate Affairs last week launched a formal investigation into the affairs of Blusmart and Gensol," a Ministry source said.

Section 210 empowers the Centre to investigate the affairs of a company if it has received a report of a registrar or inspector after an examination of the company's books of account, an intimation of a special resolution passed by a company that the affairs of the company ought to be investigated, or if it is in the public interest to do so.

Hilton committed to Indian market: CEO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Hilton, the American hotel chain, was on an ambitious growth trajectory in South Asia and the hospitality group was committed to contribute to India's growing travel and hospitality sector, said president and CEO Chris Nassetta here.

'Major opportunity'

Emphasising on the importance Hilton placed on India, Mr. Nassetta said, "India is a critical part of Hilton's global growth strategy. As one of the world's largest and most dynamic markets, it represents a major opportunity across brand segments."

He was speaking at 'brand journey' Hilton organised for the media to showcase 10 of its brands already operating in India.

Hilton now has 32 trading hotels and 29 properties in the pipeline which all would be operational in the next four years.

Sundaram-Clayton Limited

(Formerly known as Sundaram-Clayton DCD Limited)
Regd office: "Chaitanya", No.12, Khader Nawaz Khan Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai 600 006.
Website : www.sundaram-clayton.com Tel : 044-2833 2115 Email : corpsec@sundaramclayton.com
CIN : L51100TN2017PLC118316

STATEMENT OF STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

(₹ in Crores)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Standalone				Consolidated			
		Quarter ended		Year ended	Period ended	Quarter ended		Year ended	Period ended
		31.03.2025	31.03.2024	31.03.2025	31.03.2024	31.03.2025	31.03.2024	31.03.2025	31.03.2024
		Unaudited		Audited		Unaudited		Audited	
1	Total income from operations	524.54	532.32	2,109.14	1,341.92	586.92	554.80	2,259.30	1,415.31
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional items)	36.40	29.59	109.39	88.80	(28.96)	(38.40)	(157.82)	(95.77)
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional items)	244.39	29.22	306.08	87.20	179.03	(38.77)	38.87	(97.37)
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional items)	209.48	20.73	257.92	64.52	143.55	(47.34)	(10.65)	(120.13)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income /(Loss) (after tax)]	209.38	20.06	253.94	62.92	141.41	(48.01)	(1.63)	(121.73)
6	Paid up Equity share capital (Face value of Rs. 5/- each)	11.02	10.12	11.02	10.12	11.02	10.12	11.02	10.12
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	-	-	1,413.06	787.49	-	-	960.03	590.04
8	Securities Premium Account (Net of issue expenses)	382.09	-	382.09	-	382.09	-	382.09	-
9	Networth	1,424.08	797.61	1,424.08	797.61	971.05	600.16	971.05	600.16
10	Outstanding Debt	1,061.52	975.78	1,061.52	975.78	1,488.89	1,417.37	1,488.89	1,417.37
11	Outstanding redeemable Preference Shares	-	0.87	-	0.87	-	0.87	-	0.87
12	Debt Equity Ratio (Times)	0.75	1.22	0.75	1.22	1.51	2.34	1.51	2.34
13	Earnings Per Share (Face value of Rs. 5/- each) (not annualised) (i) Basic (in Rs.) (ii) Diluted (in Rs.)	 99.27 99.27	 10.25 10.25	 122.23 122.23	 31.89 31.89	 68.03 68.03	 (23.40) (23.40)	 (5.05) (5.05)	 (59.38) (59.38)
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	- NOT APPLICABLE -							
15	Debenture Redemption Reserve	- NOT APPLICABLE -							
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio (Times)	3.59	2.00	0.69	2.07	1.40	0.40	0.14	0.32
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio (Times)	4.53	5.22	4.06	5.91	1.78	0.97	1.09	1.07
18	Current Ratio (Times)	0.78	0.76	0.78	0.76	0.74	0.62	0.74	0.62
19	Long term debt to working capital (Times)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	Bad debts to Accounts Receivable ratio (Times)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21	Current liability ratio (Times)	0.57	0.64	0.57	0.64	0.53	0.61	0.53	0.61
22	Total debts to total assets ratio (Times)	0.35	0.41	0.35	0.41	0.48	0.53	0.48	0.53
23	Debtors Turnover ratio (Times)	7.65	6.58	6.54	6.61	8.33	8.49	7.60	8.15
24	Inventory Turnover ratio (Times)	3.35	3.39	3.56	3.24	2.95	3.18	3.18	3.04
25	Operating Margin (%)	16.65	11.45	13.44	11.26	5.35	2.71	4.20	2.18
26	Net Profit Margin (%)	6.33	3.98	4.27	4.93	(5.58)	(8.46)	(7.90)	(8.38)

Notes:

1 The above financial results were reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 6th May 2025. The statutory auditors of the Company have expressed an unmodified opinion on these financial results.

2 The above is an extract of the detailed format of financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulations 33 & 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the financial results are available on the Stock exchange website www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com and on Company's website www.sundaram-clayton.com.

3 In accordance with the Scheme of Arrangement approved by the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Chennai Bench by an order dated 6th March, 2023, the manufacturing business, along with its related assets and liabilities at the values appearing in the books of accounts of TVS Holdings Limited on the close of business hours as on 10th August , 2023, was demerged, transferred and vested into the Company with effect from 11th August, 2023. Hence results for period ended 31st March, 2024 starts from 11th August 2023.

4 Figures for the previous periods have been regrouped, wherever necessary, to conform to the current period's classification.

5 The Detailed Financial Results of the Company for the year ended 31st March 2025 can be accessed through the below QR code :

Date : 6th May, 2025

For Sundaram-Clayton Limited
Sd/-
R Gopalan
Chairman

WASHINGTON

Canada 'never for sale', Carney tells Trump at White House meeting

AP

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney told U.S. President Donald Trump that his country was "not for sale" as they met at the White House amid tensions on tariffs and sovereignty. Mr. Trump insisted to the recently elected Mr. Carney that it would be a "wonderful marriage" if Canada agreed to become the 51st U.S. State. AFP

OFRA

Gaza will be entirely destroyed, says Israeli Minister Smotrich

REUTERS

Israel's Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich said on Tuesday that a victory for his country in its war against militant group Hamas means that the Gaza Strip will be "entirely destroyed". Smotrich, also expressed his hope that the territory would be formally annexed during the current government's term. AFP

MOSCOW

Putin tells Iranian President Russia wants a 'fair' U.S.-Iran nuclear deal

REUTERS

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday told his Iranian counterpart Masoud Pezeshkian that Moscow wants a "fair" nuclear deal between the U.S. and Iran and was ready to help advance talks, the Kremlin said. The development was announced by the Kremlin through the readout of a call between the leaders. AFP

PORT SUDAN

Port Sudan comes under attack from paramilitary for third day

AFP

Drones struck the airport and cut power across Port Sudan on Tuesday, the third straight day the Army-aligned government's seat of power has come under attack. The strikes, which have been blamed on rival paramilitaries, came a day after Sudan's main fuel depot was hit, causing a massive blaze south of the eastern city. AFP

Trump halts Yemen strikes as Houthis 'capitulate'

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON/SANAA

U.S. President Donald Trump abruptly announced that Washington would end its attacks against Yemen's Huthis on Tuesday, saying the rebels had agreed to stop harassing ships in the Red Sea.

In surprise comments at the White House, Mr. Trump said the Iran-backed rebels had "capitulated" after the near-daily, seven-week U.S. bombing campaign that left 300 dead.

There was no comment from the Huthis, who have been firing missiles and drones at ships on the vital trade artery, saying they are acting in solidarity with the Palestinians.

Israeli strikes 'fully disable' Yemen's key airport in Sanaa

IDF has also struck several power plants in Yemen's capital; this was the second attack in two days by Israel, in retaliation for a missile strike launched by Houthis on the Tel Aviv airport on Sunday

Associated Press
JERUSALEM

Israel's military said on Tuesday it launched air strikes against Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen, fully disabling the country's international airport in the capital, Sanaa. It also said several power plants were struck in the area.

Footage aired on Israeli television showed thick black plumes of smoke rising above the skyline of Sanaa. Social media video purported to show multiple strikes around Sanaa, with black smoke rising as the thumps of the blast echoed against the surrounding mountains. The strikes were the second time in two days that the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) attacked the rebels in Yemen, in retaliation for a missile strike on Israel's airport on Sunday. The Houthis' satellite news channel said the strikes had hit Sanaa Airport.

Counter-attack: Smoke billows following an Israeli air strike on Houthi infrastructure in Sanaa in Yemen on Tuesday. REUTERS

"We urge you to immediately evacuate the area of the airport and to warn anyone nearby to distance themselves immediately," IDF spokesperson Avichay Adraee wrote on social media, attaching a map of Sanaa International Airport. "Failure to evacuate the area endangers your lives."

On Monday night, Israel targeted the Houthi rebels in Yemen's Red Sea province of Hodeida, killing at least one person and wounding 35. The rebels' media office said at least six strikes hit the crucial Hodeida port. Others hit a cement factory in the district of Bajil.

Merz wins second vote to become German Chancellor

Associated Press
BERLIN

Friedrich Merz succeeded on Tuesday in his bid to become the next German Chancellor during a second vote in parliament, hours after he suffered a historic defeat in the first round. The conservative leader had been expected to smoothly win the vote to become Germany's 10th Chancellor since the Second World War.

Slight scare: Friedrich Merz receives his certificate of appointment from German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier in Berlin. REUTERS

Mr. Merz received 325 votes in the second ballot. He needed a majority of 316 out of 630 votes but only received 310 in the first round – well short of the 328 seats held by his coalition. Because the votes were secret ballots, it was not immediately clear – and might never be known – who had defected from Mr. Merz's camp.

Mr. Merz's coalition is led by his centre-right Christian Democratic Union and its Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union. They are joined by the centre-left Social Democrats led by outgoing Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

Germany, the most populous member state of the 27-nation European Union, has the continent's biggest economy and serves as a diplomatic heavyweight. The new Chancellor's in-tray would include the war in Ukraine and the Trump administration's confrontational trade policy on top of domestic issues, such as the rise of a far-right, anti-immigrant party.

Kyiv's drone strikes briefly shut down Moscow's airports

Associated Press

All four international airports around Moscow temporarily suspended flights on Tuesday as Russian forces intercepted more than 100 Ukrainian drones fired at a dozen Russian regions, the Defence Ministry in Moscow said.

Nine other regional Russian airports also temporarily stopped operating as drones struck areas along the border with Ukraine and deeper inside Russia. It was the second straight night that the Moscow region reportedly was targeted.

The drone assault threatened a planned unilateral 72-hour ceasefire in the more than three-year war announced by President Vladimir Putin to coincide with celebrations in Moscow marking Victory Day in World War II.

All four international airports in Moscow and nine regional airports temporarily halted operations

The day celebrating Moscow's defeat of Nazi Germany in 1945 is Russia's biggest secular holiday. Chinese President Xi Jinping, Brazilian leader Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and others will gather in Moscow on Thursday for the 80th anniversary and watch a parade featuring thousands of troops accompanied by tanks and missiles.

Bangladesh ex-PM Khaleda Zia returns home from the U.K.

Press Trust of India
DHAKA

Bangladesh's ailing former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia returned home from London on Tuesday after four months of medical treatment, with her party leaders expressing hope that her presence will facilitate the restoration of democracy in the country ruled by an interim government.

Ms. Zia, the chairperson of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), went to London on January 8 for advanced medical care and was admitted to The London Clinic. After being discharged, she moved to her eldest son Tarique Rahman's residence, where she has been receiving treatment.

A Qatari royal air ambulance carrying the 79-year-old leader and her entourage from London landed at Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

Supporters galore

Ms. Zia smiled and waved from her wheelchair as thousands of supporters lined the streets leading to her residence at Dhaka's Gulshan area. Ms. Zia has long suffered from liver cirrhosis, kidney disease, heart problems, diabetes, and arthritis.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS-TIRUPATI
MARKETING DEPARTMENT **e-Procurement Tender Notice**

e-Tenders are invited for supply of **(1)** 25,00,000 numbers of Bio Compostable Laddu Carry Covers **(2)** 3,000 tins (each tin 15kgs net) of Gingelly Oil Grade-I with Agmark **(3)** 5,00,000 Kgs of Cow Ghee from AP dairies through e-tenders to the Marketing Department, T.T. Devasthanams,. For Tender notice and tender details log on to the web site **http://www.tirumala.org** and **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in**. For further details contact Phone Numbers: **0877-2264079, 2264555**, FAX No: **0877-2264554**.

TTD-40021/10/2025-PRO SEC (Adv.No.53) Date:06-05-2025 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, (PROJECT) PHED REGION CHURU (RAJ.)
Email : ace.chu.phed@rajasthan.gov.in

S. No.: 161-196 Dated: 25.04.2025

Notice Inviting Bid No 01/2025-26

Bids for Work of Augmentation cum Reorganization of Aapni Yojana Phase-I (Dhannasar Feeder) Water Supply Project including 10 years O&M District Churu are invited from Interested bidders upto 18.00 hrs 26.05.2025. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and departmental website https://phed.raj.nic.in. (The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 237.87 Crore.

UBN - PHE2526WLOB01689

(Rammurti)
DIPR/C/5865/2025 Additional Chief Engineer (Project), PHED, Churu

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CMG, SDSC - SHAR SRIHARIKOTA - 524124

Brief E-TENDER NOTICE : CORRIGENDUM-A (SALE EXTENSION)

No:SHAR:CMG:CIVIL:MAINT:E-PT-26(B)/24-25 Dt: 06.05.2025

Kindly refer to E-Public Tender-26/24-25 dt 25.03.25 **"Balance works (Roof arresting leakage works and miscellaneous civil works at Raw Material Processing facilities (09 Nos) at SMPC Unit-1, SDSC SHAR"** (T/C-24-093, Est. cost ₹ 47.06 Lakhs); **"Resurfacing of BT pavement at Transport Garage at Sullurpeta"** (T/C-24-094, Est. cost ₹ 14.22 Lakhs); **"Closing North side ventilators with brick masonry and repairs to the plastering at East and West side door top area in L110, SPB & L40 buildings at FLP SDSC SHAR"** (T/C-24-095, Est. cost ₹ 26.70 Lakhs). **Sale period extended up to 19.05.2025.** Interested tenderers may visit **www.isro.gov.in** or **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** for details.

Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/SDSC SHAR

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(Construction Organisation)

1. E-Tender Notice No.CAO-CN-MS-EPC-NL-01-2025 DATED 28-03-2025
2. E-Tender Notice No. 01-CECNMS-2025-E-500427 DATED 02-04-2025
3. E-Tender Notice No. 02-CECNMS-2025-E-532108 DATED 02-04-2025

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Chief Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Egmore, Chennai 600 008 invites e-tender for the following work(s) as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in our portal **www.ireps.gov.in.** The tenderers/Contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only online tenders will be accepted.

NAME OF THE WORK

1. REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL for the Construction of New Railway BG line between Chainage 82.000 KM and Chainage 114.600 KM between Arani (Incl.) and Ranipet (Incl.) Stations (Reach III) and Chainage 141.500 and Chainage 170.000 between Sholinghur Town(Excl.) and Podatturpet (Excl.) (Reach V) Including Utility Shifting in New BG Railway line between TINDIVANAM NAGARI Project (CIVIL ENGINEERING & ELECTRICAL WORKS) on EPC MODE.

Cash Value (Cr.,)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees)	Period of Completion (Months)	Closing Date @ 17.00 Hrs	Pre-Bid Conference Date @ 11.30 Hrs.	Physical submission of documnents before 17.00 Hrs
736.14	20000000	24	23.05.2025	25.04.2025	5 Days

NAME OF THE WORK

2. Gauge conversion between Peralam and Karaikkal stations: Proposed Construction of Staff Quarters Type-II-24 Units, Type-III-8 Units and Over Head water tank at Thirunallaru, Construction of Control room at Karaikal, Slope protection work and other Miscellaneous works Ie. Boundary wall and Tree plantation between Peralam and Karaikkal stations. (TWO PACKET SYSTEM)

3. Proposed Construction of new CAO office with Ground Mezzanine Five Floors at My Ladys Garden, (TWO PACKET SYSTEM)

Cash Value (Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees)	Period of Completion (Months)	Closing Date @ 15.30 Hrs
182358864.55	1061800.00	12	24.04.2025
428670709.93	2293400.00	18	24.04.2025

For further details, please refer to web site portal **www.ireps.gov.in** or contact Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, Construction, E.V.R. High Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.

Chief Engineer (Construction), Egmore, Chennai-600 008.
for and On behalf of President of India

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Bharath C Yaram	AIR 567	Shubham Kumar Mahato	AIR 606
G A R V Surya Teja	AIR 647	Aadha Sandeep Kumar	AIR 667
Nithin H R	AIR 692	S Sai Bhargava	AIR 798
Madhan Varma P	AIR 827	Raju N Wagh	AIR 871
Annapurna Mishra	AIR 994		

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www.karnatakadigital.in/careers
The deadline for applications is 18th May 2025

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MAHANTHESH,** S/O Linganna Anjutagi, No.011, Slv Gvr Paradise Apartment, 4th Main Road, Vinayaka Nagar, Yelahanka, Blr– 560063. Have Changed My Name To Mahantesh Anjutagi. Vide Affidavit Date On 05/05/25.

I, **LOKESHA** Kaveripura Mahadevappa, S/O: Nanjappa Mahadevappa, R/O: No.10 Amruthavarshini, 11th Block Ganakallu, Banashankari 6th Stage, Bengaluru–560060. Have Changed My Name As Lokesh Kaveripura Mahadevappa. Vide Affidavit Date On 05/05/25.

I, **SHOBHA** Krishna Murthy, d/o: Kanimbele Krishna Murthy, r/o: No–306, Sri Ranganatha Arcade, Bhuvaneshwari Road, Whitefield, Bangalore –560066. Have Changed my Name as Shobha Murthy. Affidavit date on 03/05/25.

I, **KRISHNA** Lakkondahalli Muniyappa and Suvarna Ramakrishnappa, Residing at No. 149, Lakkondahalli Village, Hosakote, Bengaluru Rural, Bengaluru -562114, Karnataka, have changed our minor son's name from Druvanth Lakkondahalli Krishna to Dhruvanth Lakkondahalli Krishna, vide affidavit dated: 28.04.2025 before notary Gangaraju .B.N., Bengaluru.

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, **HARSHAVARDHAN,** S/o Suresh Prasad Singh, R/o WB– 604, Shriram Smrithi Apartment Bidarguppe, Mallenahalli, Bidaraguppe, Bengaluru, Karnataka– 562107 have changed my name to Harshavardhan Singh

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SWATHI,** D/o Francis Pushpa Raj, aged about 36 years, R/at #24, 2nd Floor, 5th Cross, Venkateshwara Layout, Sunkadakatte Veerabhadreshwara Nagar, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560 091 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ARUL MARY** to **SWATHI,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **SWATHI** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 5th May 2025, sworn before Notary **S.I. BALAGURU** at Bangalore.

TENDERS

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Invited for sale of eco shop items, souvenirs, handicrafts in Periyar Tiger Reserve, Thekkady, Kerala.
For details
www.periyartigerreserve.org
Last date: 21-05-2025 10.30 AM.

MENTAL ASPECT

Belief and confidence key for a player, feels KKR coach Pandit

K.R. DEEPAK

Kolkata Knight Riders head coach Chandrakant Pandit talked about the importance of instilling confidence in players. "We know the ability of every individual player. We believe in them. To maintain that, you have to give them a lot of confidence, make sure they believe in themselves".

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Knight Riders players don special *Shahoshi Rani* jersey

K.R. DEEPAK

As part of its campaign to empower women, KKR players wore a special jersey, promoting the initiative *Shahoshi Rani*, at the training session ahead of their IPL match against CSK. Forty women got the opportunity to watch the team train, interact with the players and coaching staff, and spend time with franchise co-owner Juhi Chawla.

CRISIS MAN

I love to play under pressure and always prepare for that: Ashutosh

K.V.S. GIRI

Ashutosh Sharma was happy that his crucial knock (41, 26b, 2x4, 3x6) took Delhi Capitals to a respectable total in the washed-out fixture against Sunrisers Hyderabad. "I love to play under pressure and I always prepare myself for these kinds of situations where no one is getting runs and if I get runs, it will be good for my team and for me."

SATURATION POINT

'Stepped down from captaincy because of too much attention'

K. MURALI KUMAR

I didn't have this sense that the attention was off me. If it wasn't captaincy, it would be batting. I was exposed to it 24/7. It did get very tough on me. That's why I stepped down because I felt like if I've decided I want to be in this place, I need to be happy — Virat Kohli in *the RCB Bold Diaries* podcast.

GT stops the MI juggernaut, shoots to the top of the table

Tewatia and Coetzee the heroes as the visitor scores 15 off the 19th and final over to chase down the revised target of 147 in the rain-affected match; Rutherford's 15-ball 28 proves crucial; Boult, Bumrah and Ashwani's two-wicket hauls in vain

Ecstasy and agony: GT's Arshad and Tewatia celebrate after crossing the finish line while Hardik is crestfallen. EMMANUAL YOGINI

IPL-18

Shayan Acharya
MUMBAI

There were some spells of rain and lots of drama at the Wankhede Stadium.

In the early hours of Wednesday, Gujarat Titans held its nerve and pulled off a three-wicket win against Mumbai Indians.

Pursuing a target of 156, GT's innings was interrupted by two rain breaks, and it required 15 runs off the final over.

But Rahul Tewatia and Gerald Coetzee set the tone with a boundary and a six off Deepak Chahar before a calm Arshad Khan took a single off the final delivery to guide the team home.

Despite a fiery spell by Jasprit Bumrah, GT left the iconic venue with a smile. Bumrah bowled 11 dot balls in his first three overs and removed GT captain Shubman Gill and Shahrukh Khan in quick succession to shift the momentum.

But there were a lot of ebbs and flows in the game.

GT looked firmly in control until the 14th over, with 49 runs needed off 36 balls.

While Gill held fort, Sherfane Rutherford brought up 28 in two overs before rain halted proceedings. However, with Bumrah cleaning up Gill, and Trent Boult dismissing Rutherford, things went downhill for GT. Bumrah returned to remove Shahrukh.

From cruising comfortably, with Gill and Jos Buttler adding 72 runs for the second wicket, GT stuttered before Tewatia and Coetzee turned the tide in the final over.

Opting to bowl, it was a rare sloppy fielding show by GT as it dropped as many as three catches in the PowerPlay. And, making the most of the opportunities, Will Jacks (53, 35b) brought up his first fifty of the season before the visitor pulled things back to restrict MI to 155 for eight.

Titans got the early momentum after Mohammed Siraj dismissed Ryan Rickelton off the second delivery before the side was left frustrated with dropped catches.

Jacks partnered with Suryakumar Yadav to forge a 71-run stand for the third wicket.

But as GT bowlers bounced back, MI was reeling at 123 for seven, after cruising at 97 for two at one stage. Had Corbin Bosch not hit a couple of sixes in Prasidh Krishna's final over, MI wouldn't have been able to breach the 150-mark. All this proved immaterial in the end.

Next assignment

MI: May 11 vs PBKS
Dharamshala, 3.30 p.m.

GT: May 11 vs DC
Delhi, 7.30 p.m.

SCOREBOARD

MUMBAI INDIANS

Ryan Rickelton c Sai Sudharsan b Siraj 2 *(2b)*, Rohit Sharma c Prasidh b Arshad 7 *(8b, 1x4)*, Will Jacks c Sai Sudharsan b Rashid 53 *(35b, 5x4, 3x6)*, Suryakumar Yadav c Shahrukh b Sai Kishore 35 *(24b, 5x4)*, Tilak Varma c Gill b Coetzee 7 *(7b)*, Hardik Pandya c Gill b Sai Kishore 1 *(3b)*, Naman Dhir c Gill b Prasidh 7 *(10b, 1x4)*, Corbin Bosch run out 27 *(22b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Deepak Chahar (not out) 8 *(8b, 1x4)*, Karn Sharma **(Impact Player for Rohit)** (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-6, w-1): 7; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 155.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-2 (Rickelton, 0.2 overs), 2-26 (Rohit, 3.3), 3-97 (Suryakumar, 10.4), 4-103 (Jacks, 11.4), 5-106 (Hardik, 12.3), 6-113 (Tilak, 13.5), 7-123 (Naman, 16.2), 8-150 (Bosch, 19.4).

TITANS BOWLING

Siraj 3-0-29-1, Arshad 3-0-18-1, Prasidh 4-0-37-1, Sai Kishore 4-0-34-2, Rashid 4-0-21-1, Coetzee 2-0-10-1.

GUJARAT TITANS

(Revised target: 147 in 19 overs)
B. Sai Sudharsan c Rickelton b Boult 5 *(5b, 1x4)*, Shubman Gill b Bumrah 43 *(46b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Jos Buttler c Rickelton b Ashwani 30 *(27b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Sherfane Rutherford **(Impact Player for Prasidh)** lbw b Boult 28 *(15b, 2x4, 2x6)*, M. Shahrukh Khan b Bumrah 6 *(6b, 1x4)*, Rahul Tewatia (not out) 11 *(8b, 1x4)*, Rashid Khan lbw b Ashwani 2 *(3b)*, Gerald Coetzee c Naman b Chahar 12 *(6b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Arshad Khan (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (nb-3, w-6): 9; Total (for seven wkts. in 19 overs): 147.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-6 (Sai Sudharsan, 1.2), 2-78 (Buttler, 11.3), 3-113 (Gill, 14.5), 4-115 (Rutherford, 15.3), 5-123 (Shahrukh, 16.4), 6-126 (Rashid, 17.2), 7-146 (Coetzee, 18.5).

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING

Chahar 3-0-32-1, Boult 4-0-22-2, Bumrah 4-0-19-2, Hardik 1-0-18-0, Karn **(Impact Player for Rohit)** 2-0-13-0, Ashwani **(Concussion Substitute for Bosch)** 4-0-28-2, Jacks 1-0-15-0.

Toss: Titans; **PoM:** Gill.

GT won by three wickets off the final delivery (DLS Method).

Bottom-placed CSK will be keen on pulling down a resurgent KKR

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

A resurgent Kolkata Knight Riders will look to continue its winning momentum and close its home run with another victory as it faces bottom-placed Chennai Super Kings in an IPL fixture at the Eden Gardens here on Wednesday.

Resilient

The defending champion displayed resilience to beat Delhi Capitals and Rajasthan Royals and stay in the play-offs race.

KKR will be confident after recording two 200-plus totals. Andre Russell and Rinku Singh's blitzkrieg against RR has empowered it, whereas top-scorer Ajinkya Rahane and young Angkrish Raghuvanshi's consistency has stood out.

Seeking improvement

However, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Venkatesh Iyer and Ramandeep Singh will seek improvement.

Bowlers, including reliable hands Varun Chakaravarthy, Sunil Narine, Harshit Rana and Vaibhav Arora, have served the side well.

With nothing to lose, CSK will be keen on stopping its four-match losing streak by exacting revenge.

Scarcity of runs

CSK has struggled for runs. It's reflected in the fact that only Ravindra Jadeja and Shivam Dube have scored in excess of 200.

The emergence of Ayush Mhatre, who narrowly missed out on a century against Royal Challengers Bengaluru, is a positive for the five-time champion. Sam Curran and Dewald Brevis have shown their mettle with the bat.

Left-arm wrist-spinner Noor Ahmad, pacers Khaleel Ahmed and Matheesha Pathirana have shouldered the maximum load of CSK's bowling.

Dhoni craze

The host may feel like the visitor on Wednesday, with the possibility of perpetual M.S. Dhoni fans deserting KKR to back their beloved icon, perhaps for one last time at the Eden.

Another high-scoring cliff-hanger, following KKR's one-run win over RR, will be a special treat.

Dangerman: KKR's Pandit and Rahane will hope that Mhatre does not take the game away from them. K.R. DEEPAK

Points table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Gujarat Titans	11	8	3	0	16	0.793
Royal Challengers	11	8	3	0	16	0.482
Punjab Kings	11	7	3	1	15	0.376
Mumbai Indians	12	7	5	0	14	1.156
Delhi Capitals	11	6	4	1	13	0.362
Kolkata Knight Riders	11	5	5	1	11	0.249
Lucknow Super Giants	11	5	6	0	10	-0.469
Sunrisers Hyderabad (E)	11	3	7	1	7	-1.192
Rajasthan Royals (E)	12	3	9	0	6	-0.718
Chennai Super Kings (E)	11	2	9	0	4	-1.117

E: Eliminated ** Till the MI-GT match on May 6*

Today's match

Kolkata, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 30
KKR 11 | CSK 19

PREVIOUS MEETING
KKR won by **eight wickets**, 2025

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIOHOTSTAR

Dot balls: the under-rated pressure point

Akanksha Chakraborty

In cricketing terms, a dot ball is simple – it's a delivery from which no run has accrued.

But, in the high-octane world of T20s, especially in the IPL, it is more than just a ball.

Rhythm-breaker

It's a mini-victory for the bowler, a rhythm-breaker for the batter and a seed of pressure for the batting unit.

In a game where fortunes flip in a matter of deliveries, one dot may seem harmless.

But stacking up a few will see frustration building, momentum swinging and false shots flying.

Dot Ball Dominators

In 2025	Dot balls	Total balls delivered	Dot ball %	Eco. Rate
Siraj (GT)	114	246	46.34	9.00
Prasidh (GT)	112	258	43.41	7.65
Khaleel (CSK)	111	232	47.84	9.85
Archer (RR)	110	273	40.29	9.47
Hazlewood (RCB)	103	221	46.61	8.44
Varun (KKR)	103	258	39.92	7.23
Boult (MI)	97	253	38.33	8.49
Arshdeep (PBKS)	96	218	44.03	8.00
Bhuvneshwar (RCB)	92	228	40.35	8.92
Cummins (SRH)	92	238	38.65	9.15

DOT BALL EMPEROR

Overall	Dot balls	Total balls delivered	Dot ball %	Eco. Rate
Bhuvneshwar	1762	4128	42.68	7.64

**Till the MI-GT match on May 6*

The Hyderabad conditions weren't as we expected: SRH coach Vettori

Anirudh Velamuri
HYDERABAD

Now eliminated from the race to the playoffs in the ongoing edition of the IPL, Sunrisers Hyderabad head coach Daniel Vettori cited tough conditions as one of the team's biggest challenges thus far.

"I definitely didn't say after every match I was backing an aggressive approach. I said we're about assessing conditions. This year, the conditions weren't as we expected. Last year, there were a lot of high-scoring games here," Vettori noted after the washout against Delhi Capitals at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium here on Monday.

"All we've talked about is assessing conditions, trying to read the game and understanding what to do in certain situations. I think the guys are innately aggressive, but certainly, this season has been about trying to establish what's been required on the day."

While teams crossed the 200-run mark seven times (in 12 innings) in Hyderabad last year, it has happened only four times (11 innings) this season.

Vettori believed that the conditions being more bowler-friendly were among the reasons for that.

"It hasn't been easy for the batters. There have been two surfaces that have (given) 250-plus runs, and there have been four that have probably been more conducive for the fast bowlers".

Failed show: Cummins & Co. were unable to wield the willow well this season. FILE PHOTO: K.V.S. GIRI

INBRIEF

Former India fielding coach Sridhar to train SL players

Former India fielding coach R. Sridhar will conduct a comprehensive 10-day programme for Sri Lankan cricketers at various levels from Wednesday, the country's cricket board announced. Sridhar, a BCCI Level 3 coach, will be involved with the Lankan men's and women's national squads, emerging squads, premier club players, the U19 team, and the Women's 'A' team. Sridhar will conduct fielding drills, skill-specific training, and simulated match scenarios, to replicate game conditions.

Indian shuttlers falter in Taipei Open qualifiers

Young Indian shuttlers failed to make a mark as none of them could progress to the main draw of the singles events at the Taipei Open Super 300 badminton tournament in Taipei on Tuesday. In men's singles, Manraj Singh and Raghu Mariswamy fell short in their respective second-round matches, while in the women's section, Mansi Singh lost in the second round even as compatriots Isharani Baruah, Ira Sharma and Shreya Lele bowed out in the opening round.

Abhishek and Madhura best Indians in Shanghai

Abhishek Verma (714 points) and Madhura Dhamangaonkar (708) emerged the top Indians in compound men and women individual qualification rounds respectively at Archery World Cup Stage-2 in Shanghai on Tuesday. Both Abhishek and Madhura claimed third places in overall rankings. India secured the top rank in men, women and mixed team events.

The results: Compound: Qualification round: Men: Individual: Abhishek Verma (third, 714), Rishabh Yadav (fourth, 713), Ojas Deotale (10th, 707), Uday Kamboj (29th, 699); **Team:** India (first, 2134). **Women: Individual:** Madhura Dhamangaonkar (third, 708), V. Jyothi Surekha (sixth, 705), Chikitha Taniparthi (11th, 701), Aditi Swami (13th, 699); **Team:** India (first, 2114); **Mixed team:** India (first, 1422).

Sekhon stays in the race for skeet final

Abhay Singh Sekhon shot the second best score of 98 out of 100 after four rounds and was placed fifth among 109 skeet shooters in the shotgun World Cup in Nicosia, Cyprus, on Tuesday. In women's skeet, Maheshwari Chauhan (93) was in the 17th spot, four points behind the leaders.

Argentina's 1978 World Cup winner Galvan passes away

Luis Galvan, who played in every match in Argentina's 1978 World Cup-winning campaign, died on Monday aged 77. Galvan formed a central defensive partnership with captain Daniel Passarella that laid the foundations for Argentina's maiden triumph.

LIVE TELECAST

Women ODI tri-series: India vs South Africa, FanCode, 10 a.m.

IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.

Champions League: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Thursday)

PSG emboldened by a fit and raring Dembele

The striker, who scored the winner in the first leg of the semifinal against Arsenal, is available for the reverse fixture; both teams are vying for their maiden title and second final

In full swing: Dembele has started training with the team after recovering from a slight hamstring problem. AFP

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Associated Press
PARIS

Paris Saint-Germain striker Ousmane Dembele has recovered from a slight hamstring problem and will be in the squad taking on Arsenal in the second leg of their Champions League semifinal on Wednesday.

Coach Luis Enrique said Dembele, who scored the winner in PSG's 1-0 victory in London last week, has been training with his teammates for two days.

"I have him at my disposal tomorrow," Enrique said on Tuesday.

Dembele was injured during the first leg and rested over the weekend when PSG lost to Strasbourg 1-2 in Ligue 1.

Rotation

Enrique heavily rotated his squad with the match against the Gunners in mind.

Dembele's goal against Arsenal was his eighth in nine Champions League appearances since the start of the year.

According to UEFA statistics, PSG has won 18 of the 19 ties in which it won a first leg away, while Arsenal has never overturned a home first leg defeat in European competition, losing all five ties.

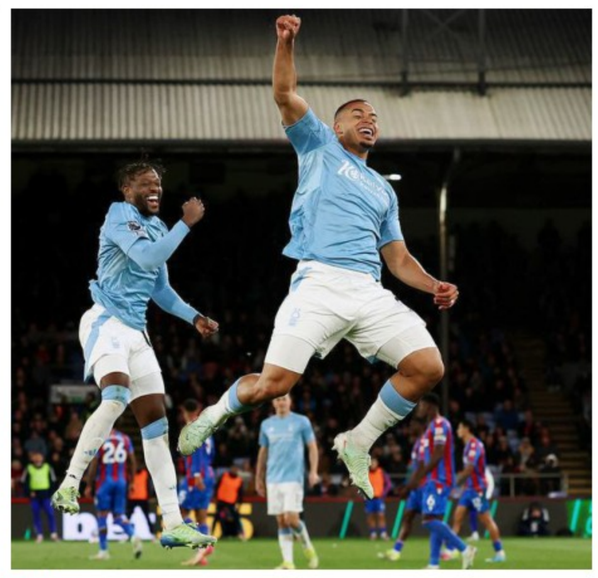
Enrique, however, isn't counting on history ahead of the match at the Parc des Princes.

"We're bound to suffer because our opponents don't have a favourable result," Enrique said. "We need to match our performance as closely as possible in the first leg to win the return leg and stay true to our ideas."

Both teams are looking for their first Champions League title and second final.

PSG lost to Borussia Dortmund at this stage last year.

The French side went down to Bayern Munich in its only Champions League final in 2020, while Arsenal was runner-up to Barcelona in 2006.



Yess! Murillo is over the moon after netting Forest's equaliser. REUTERS

Forest's CL bid dented by draw at Palace

EURO LEAGUES

Reuters
LONDON

Nottingham Forest's quest for Champions League football next season suffered a setback when it was held to a 1-1 Premier League draw by Crystal Palace on Monday as Murillo cancelled out Eberechi Eze's penalty for the host.

The draw leaves Forest in sixth place in the table on 61 points from 35 games, two points behind fifth-placed Chelsea in the final Champions League qualification position.

Comeback win

In Serie A, AC Milan secured a 2-1 victory over Genoa in a rainy Monday Serie A clash, with a rapid second-half turnaround driven by Rafael Leao's equaliser and an own goal from Morten Frendrup.

The results: Serie A: Genoa 1 (Vitinha 61) lost to AC Milan 2 (Leao 76, Frendrup 77-og).
Premier League: Crystal Palace 1 (Eze 60-pen) drew with Nottingham Forest 1 (Murillo 64).
LaLiga: Girona 1 (Stuani 10) bt Mallorca 0.

CM sets Dasara Games deadline to improve State's SA

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

CM Siddaramaiah.
FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, on Monday, expressed his displeasure at the state of sporting infrastructure in Karnataka and took to task the officials of the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports (DYES).

At a high-level review meeting held at Vidhana Soudha here, the CM was also miffed that despite having issued orders for the recruitment of 176 sports trainers last year and the finance department clearing it, the process had not moved forward.

Siddaramaiah was unhappy with the functioning of the State's Sports Authority (SA) and asked officials to study how the Sports Authority of India (SAI) ran activities. He set a deadline of the Dasara Games in September to show results. The CM stated that athletes residing at sports hostels should be given nutritious and protein-rich meals, and that continuous audits should be undertaken by the wardens to ensure quality was not compromised.

Siddaramaiah also directed authorities to review spectator safety at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium and take steps to upgrade the gym, athletics track, toilets and air-conditioning facilities.

It is to be noted that the Neeraj Chopra Classic, a World Athletics A-category elite javelin meet, is scheduled to be held at the Kanteerava Stadium on May 24.

It is set to attract the best in the business, including the two-time Olympic medallist Neeraj himself, alongside the likes of Anderson Peters and Julius Yego, both former world champions.

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

All smiles: Kreeda Kshetra won the Tiger Cup under-16 cricket tournament. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Borish nets five as Karnataka wins big

Borish Singh scored five goals as Karnataka thrashed Andaman & Nicobar 10-0 to enter the quarterfinals of the Swami Vivekananda under-20 men's National football in Narainpur, Chhattisgarh. In the last-eight clash on Friday, Karnataka will meet Meghalaya.

The result: Karnataka 10 (Saikhom Borish Singh 14, 39, 42, 45+1, 45+5, B. Abhiram 8, 19, Azeem Tariq 54, Prazwal Gowda 65, T. Premosh 90+4) bt Andaman & Nicobar 0.

Cricket statistician Keshavamurthy passes away

Noted cricket statistician Channagiri Keshavamurthy passed away in Bengaluru on Tuesday. He was 85.

For long, Keshavamurthy was a constant presence in the media box and was both cricketers' and journalists' go-to man when it came to numbers. He wrote books on cricket as well as novels, authoring close to two dozen of them.

Former India captain Anil Kumble condoled the death on social media platform X. "Heartfelt condolences. He was a very nice man. Always smiling and keeping track of every ball bowled. May God give strength to his family and friends to bear his loss," Kumble wrote.

Yohan wins it for Income Tax

Yohan Thomas Jacob's 40th-minute goal helped Income Tax FC defeat BTM FC 1-0 in the BDFA A-division football league on Tuesday.

Other results: Bangalore City FC 1 (R. Sachin 69) bt RWF FC 0;
C-div: Bangalore Wanderers FC bt Agaram FC 3-1.

Playsmart downs Vanquisher SC

Playsmart FC defeated Vanquisher Sports Club 3-0 in KSFA C-division football league championship on Tuesday. In other matches, DB United FC drew with FCA Bangalore 0-0 and Bangalore Super Strikers FC thrashed Kodagu Colts FC 6-0.

Arun's five-for helps Kreeda triumph

Arun Jain starred for Kreeda Kshetra with a five-wicket haul (5/23) as it beat Six Cricket Academy by 30 runs to win the Tiger Cup under-16 cricket tournament.

The scores (final): Kreeda Kshetra 149 in 37 overs (Kushal Javali 42, Manish Patil 4/21) bt Six Cricket Academy 119 in 29.2 overs (Hruthik Kumar 28, Arush Jain 5/23).

Sudeep stars for BOSCH

Sudeep scored 34 points as BOSCH defeated YMMA 67-42 in the State B-division men's basketball league championship on Tuesday.

The results: BOSCH 67 (Sudeep 34, Pratheek 17) bt YMMA 42 (Augustin 16); Bangalore Vanguards 68 (Avinash 17, Varun Asnani 14) bt Devanga Union 56 (Rishi 14, Rohan Sangal 10).

IPL teenagers and standard-bearers are going back to the basics

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

As the IPL turns 18 and grows into adulthood, it seems to have put away childish things.

We are seeing the fourth generation in this rapidly-evolving format. Gone are the days of manic batting, artificially promoted excitement, silly team selection and Bollywood imperatives.

Teams are more professional, better coached, and accept failure as an important aspect of success. Significantly, those born in this century have emerged as the standard-bearers, for their self-belief and emphasis on predominantly classical batsmanship.

Sai Sudharsan, Priyansh Arya, Riyan Parag, Ayush Mhatre, Vaibhav Suryavanshi combine elegance and effectiveness in a manner the pioneers didn't think important. The likes of Yashaswi Jaiswal and Devdutt Padikkal had already shown the way.

The old-fashioned slogger still exists and is still effective, but the top three in most teams look a class apart.

Slightly older but the most stylish of the lot is Shubman Gill, who, like Virat Kohli of the first generation, needs no ugly strokes when he has a range of lovely ones at his command.

As of Monday, 14 of the top 20 batters were Indians; eight were born at the turn of the century or later. Of the 15 Indian bowlers in the top 20, only two were born in the same period, suggesting perhaps that it takes longer to assimilate the craft of bowling.

If in the earlier editions batters discovered the effectiveness of taking the front foot away from the line of the ball and swinging through, now many have rediscovered the technique of getting to its pitch.

The result has been more drives on the offside, and a hint that the future might lie in the past.

Evolution is a process. No clear line can be drawn between phases. Methods emerge as startlingly new, are imitated, then become commonplace and new methods have to be worked out.

Coaches working in tandem with talent scouts (crucial to the whole process, but not celebrated as much) are proving what critics have been saying for decades: that talent is plentiful in India, but often gets clogged up in red tape and corruption. Franchises have skin in the game, and unlike cricket boards are not served by politicians and bureaucrats.

Selection was relatively simple at the start. The best first class players were chosen. Mahendra Singh Dhoni is still playing, as are Kohli and Rohit Sharma, all of whom made their debut in 2008, the inaugural year. The IPL was billed as 'cricketainment' then, with a heavy Bollywood presence, and desperate attempts at remaining in the news. Shah Rukh Khan and Preity Zinta were as important as the players.

Bowlers were seen as sacrificial lambs; spinners existed to allow batters to swing for sixes and get the commentators excited. The likes of Danny Morrison painted the mundane with the rich colours of their overexcited voices, making up in volume what they lacked in balance.

In the second generation, players learnt to adapt. Coaches saw T20 as a format that existed independently. A.B. de Villiers became the 360-degree player, with shots that came into his mind only a moment before he played them. In the middle of the last decade, RCB had the three best batters – Chris Gayle (called the Bradman of T20), ABD (as the adoring Bengalureans called him), and Kohli – after having got it wrong in the beginning with sound, defensive players.

Then a realisation dawned – you can't pack a team with batters alone. Bowlers came into their own. Mumbai Indians and CSK won thanks as much to their batters as their bowlers' skill at claiming wickets. An old cliché was recalled: the best way to staunch runs was to take wickets.

The third generation had specialists – those who played only T20 cricket. Experimentation continued, catching near the boundary was raised to miraculous levels. The middle overs now belonged to the spinners, and with tricky wickets around, batters had to be watchful. Leg spinners thrived.

And now here we are – entertainment is barely mentioned, the cricket rises or falls on its own terms. Teenagers are showing the way. The earlier generations – Kohli apart – are looking outdated. The cricket is smoother, more rounded and lacks the sharp and jerky motions of the past. The fifth generation will be known in retrospect, and will depend on which thread is followed through from here.